CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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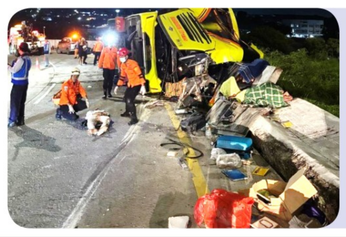

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"The law applies to leaders of all parties. Why is only the BJP opposing it? The bill is being implemented to protect peace. BJP is strongly opposing because they indulge in hate speech."
—Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

Only provocative speakers oppose Hate Speech Bill: CM

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah defended the Hate Speech Bill, saying only those making inflammatory remarks were opposing it

MYSURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said opposition to the proposed Hate Speech Regulation Bill was coming only from those who indulge in provocative and inflammatory speeches. He maintained that people who refrain from making such statements have nothing to fear, as no cases would be registered against them.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, Siddaramaiah questioned the BJP's strong reaction to the Bill, remarking that those who have not committed any wrongdoing should not feel threatened. Citing a Kannada proverb, he said there was no reason to react defensively if one was not guilty. He rejected claims that the Bill targets specific individuals or parties, asserting that it would apply equally to leaders across the political spectrum.

The Chief Minister said the legislation was aimed at preserving peace and communal harmony, noting that instances of hate speech had risen in recent years. He alleged that the BJP's opposition stemmed from its frequent use of divisive rhetoric and asked whether hate speech could ever contribute to social stability.

His remarks came amid criticism from Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, who accused the Congress-led government of attempting to impose an "undeclared Emergency" through the Bill. She said the Belagavi legislature session should have focused on North Karnataka's issues instead of introducing the hate speech law. Responding to other allegations, Siddaramaiah dismissed claims of misappropriation under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, stating that funds are transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts. He clarified that payments for February and March were yet to be released and would be verified before disbursal.

On internal party matters, Siddaramaiah said no individual is bigger than the Congress and that leadership decisions rest with the party high command, whose decision he would accept.

What does it propose?

The Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025 proposes 2–10 years' imprisonment for offenders and introduces collective liability for organisations involved in hate-related offences. The Karnataka govt argued that the Bill is required because no existing Indian law explicitly defines or addresses hate speech, exposing a long-standing gap in the country's criminal framework despite frequent public debates on the issue.

Hindu outfit seeks Governor's intervention

BENGALURU: The Hindu Janajagruti Samiti, a right-wing organisation, has urged Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to withhold assent to a bill aimed at curbing hate speech and hate crime, terming it "unconstitutional" and a "serious threat" to freedom of speech and religious liberty. In a memorandum, the representatives of the organisation and other outfits opposed the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, and warned that its provisions could be misused, like suppressing dissent. It claimed that the bill is "vague, overbroad and unconstitutional, and poses a serious threat to freedom of speech guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, as well as to religious freedom."

After Hadi, another student leader shot in B'desh

DHAKA

Unidentified gunmen on Monday targeted another youth leader in Bangladesh, just days after the death of prominent student activist Sharif Osman Hadi, who succumbed to gunshot injuries in a Singapore hospital last week.

Motaleb Sikder, a student leader, was shot in the head in Khulna city, located in south-western Bangladesh. He was immediately rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital in critical condition, according to The Daily Star. Hospital sources, cited by The Kaler Kantha newspaper, reported that Sikder was bleeding heavily upon arrival. Doctors initiated emergency treatment, and the officer-in-charge later confirmed that Sikder was out of danger. The bullet reportedly entered near one ear, pierced the skin, and exited through the other side without causing fatal damage.

The attack follows the high-profile killing of Sharif Osman Hadi, a 32-year-old Inqilab Mancha spokesperson and key figure in the student-led protests last year that contributed to the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government. Hadi was shot by masked assailants on December 12 during an election campaign in Dhaka's Bijoynagar area. He was undergoing treatment in Singapore when he died on Thursday. Hadi had been a candidate for the upcoming February 12 general elections.

Sikder's shooting has intensified concerns over escalating violence targeting youth leaders in Bangladesh, highlighting the continued unrest and fragile security environment in the country. Authorities are investigating both incidents to track down the perpetrators and ensure public safety.

Who is Motaleb Sikder?

Motaleb Sikder is a leader of National Citizen Party (NCP) and heads the Khulna Division head of party and also serves as its workers front's central coordinator, as per the statement released by the outfit after the shooting incident. Sikder, 42, reportedly was a key part of Bangladesh's violent student-led 2004 uprising. Sikder is a resident of Sheikhpara Palli in Sonadanga. Miscreants opened fire at around 11:45 am, targeting Sikder's head, near Gazi Medical College Hospital in the city.

CM, DCM working like brothers: Pilot

BENGALURU

Playing down reports of a power tussle within the Karnataka Congress, AICC General Secretary Sachin Pilot on Monday said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar are working together harmoniously and would accept any decision taken by the party high command.

Speaking to reporters with Shivakumar seated beside him, Pilot said the issue was settled as Shivakumar had referred to Siddaramaiah as his elder brother, while the Chief Minister had called him his younger brother. He said the Karnataka government was functioning with integrity and dedication, and that the Congress was fulfilling all promises made before the elections.

Pilot expressed confidence that the party would return to power in the state with a strong majority in 2028. He said every Congress worker in Karnataka would abide by the leadership's decision, stressing that the party's focus remained on governance and delivery.

Siddaramaiah denies post-Sankranti 'revolution'

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday reiterated that all decisions regarding the Congress party in the state are determined by the high command. Speaking in Mysuru while hearing public grievances, he emphasized, "I am making it clear once and for all. The Congress high command's decisions are final. I have spoken with the high command and they will announce their decision. That ends everything."

To a query on speculations over a "revolution" (kranti) after Sankranti (January 14), the Chief Minister said, "There is no revolution, or anything of the sort. Whatever the situation, the party high command's decision is final".

Responding to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's suggestion that party issues could be resolved locally, Siddaramaiah noted, "Whatever issues exist in the party, the high command will resolve them."

K'taka man kills pregnant daughter over inter-caste marriage

HUBBALLI

A 20-year-old pregnant woman and her unborn child died after she was allegedly beaten by her father for marrying a Dalit man in Karnataka's Hubballi taluk. Police have arrested three people, including the woman's father, in connection with the crime.

The victim, Manya Patil, sustained severe head injuries during an attack at Inam Veerapura village under Hubballi Rural police limits and died at a private hospital on Sunday, December 22. Her unborn child also did not survive. Her husband's parents were injured and are undergoing treatment.

According to Dharwad Superintendent of Police Gunjan Arya, Manya's father, Prakashgouda Patil, along with relatives, assaulted her at her husband's residence using weapons such as an axe and an iron sprinkler pipe. The attack took place around 6.30 pm, and she succumbed to her injuries about three hours later. Manya had married Vivekananda, from the Madar caste, earlier this year after the two met in college. The marriage had faced strong opposition from her family despite prior police warnings.

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HC seeks Sonia, Rahul Gandhi's response in National Herald case

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued notices to Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, seeking their response on an appeal filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) challenging a trial court order that had refused to take cognisance of the ED's chargesheet in the National Herald money laundering case.

The trial court had earlier dismissed the complaint against the Gandhis and others, observing that the case was based on a private complaint filed by Dr. Subramanian Swamy under Section 200 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and not on a First Information Report (FIR), making cognisance legally impermissible. The court also noted that it would be premature to consider the merits of the allegations at this stage, including any fresh FIR registered by the Economic Offences Wing of Delhi Police.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the ED, argued that the trial court's order was flawed and could set a precedent affecting other similar cases. Justice Ravinder Dudeja, after hearing submissions from both sides, posted the matter for further hearing on March 12, 2026.

The ED alleges that Young Indian, a company in which Sonia and Rahul Gandhi each reportedly hold a 38% stake, acquired the debt of Associated Journals Limited, the publisher of National Herald, for a nominal sum of Rs 50 lakh. This transaction allegedly enabled Young Indian to control AJL's real estate assets nationwide, valued at nearly Rs 2,000 crore. Other accused include Suman Dubey, Sam Pitroda, Dotex Merchandise, and Sunil Bhandari.

QUICK READ

H-1B visa holders stranded in India as interviews delayed

NEW DELHI: Indian H-1B visa holders returning to India this month for work permit renewals are stranded after US consular offices abruptly rescheduled appointments, according to immigration lawyers cited by the Washington Post. Appointments between December 15–26 were postponed due to the US government's expanded social media vetting policy, now applied to all H-1B and H-4 applicants. Lawyers reported dozens of affected clients, raising concerns for employers awaiting their return.

Govt committed to Aravallis, Yadav denies Cong claims

NEW DELHI: Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Monday strongly refuted Congress allegations, calling them "misinformation and lies" regarding the redefinition of the Aravalli Hills and Range. Speaking at a press briefing, he emphasized that the Modi government remains fully committed to protecting and restoring the Aravallis, with legal mining allowed in only 0.19% of the total area across Rajasthan, Haryana, and Gujarat. Delhi, which has five Aravalli districts, permits no mining.

INDIA–NEW ZEALAND FTA

India, New Zealand announce conclusion of FTA negotiations

NEW DELHI

India and New Zealand on Monday announced the successful conclusion of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), describing it as historic, ambitious and mutually beneficial. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a telephone conversation with his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon, during which the two leaders confirmed that talks on the pact had been wrapped up.

In a video message, Luxon said the agreement would create major opportunities for New Zealand farmers, growers and businesses by expanding exports, generating jobs and boosting incomes. He added that New Zealand's exports to India are projected to rise from about USD 1.1 billion to USD 1.3 billion annually over the next 20 years. Highlighting India's scale, Luxon said the FTA would provide Kiwi businesses access to a fast-growing market of nearly 1.4 billion consumers.

According to official statements, the agreement is expected to be formally signed within the next three months and implemented sometime next year. As part of the pact, New Zealand has committed to facilitating investments worth USD 20 billion in India over the next 15 years.

India's commerce ministry said the deal provides duty-free access for Indian goods, with New Zealand agreeing to eliminate tariffs on 100 per cent of its tariff lines. This is expected to significantly enhance the competitiveness of India's labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, marine products, gems and jewellery, handicrafts, engineering goods and automobiles.

Highlights of FTA

- Zero Duty market access on 100 per cent of India's exports.
- Dedicated quota of Temporary Employment Entry visa for 5,000 professionals and 1,000 Work and Holiday Visas.
- New Zealand has committed to facilitate investments of USD 20 billion into India over the next fifteen years.
- Launched on March 16th 2025, the fastest with a Developed Country FTA concludes the year on a high note for all Indian exports including textiles, pharmaceuticals, leather, Engineering Goods, Agricultural products

QUICK READ

Driver arrested for running over drunk man

Bengaluru

A man who was drunk and fell on the road after being hit by a bus has died in the city. Chethan Kumar, who was walking on the main road of Heggana halli under the influence of alcohol, lost control and fell on the road, when a bus coming from behind ran over him. As a result, he died on the spot. On the other hand, the bus driver Narendra, who was scared after the accident, fled the spot. After examining the CCTV footage of the incident, the Kamakshipalya traffic police traced the driver Narendra and arrested him. He was a resident of Peenya, and a case has been registered in connection with the incident, said Dr. Anoop A Shetty, DCP, West Division, Bangalore Traffic.

Bengaluru University students protest against management

Bengaluru

Hostel students staged a protest at the Jnanabharathi campus to express their anger against the management. The students of UG and PG departments have alleged that the university administration is negligent in resolving the problems and lack of infrastructure in the hostel. The students, who blocked the road in front of the girls' hostel in the northeastern state, alleged that the university administration was ignoring their grievances and concerns.

Boy assaulted; CWC steps in

Bengaluru

In a shocking incident, a boy was allegedly kicked and assaulted at Thyagarajanagar under Banashankari police station limits. After the incident, the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) visited the house of the victim and counselled the child. After collecting information about the incident from the child and parents, the CWC officials have decided to counsel other children who have been subjected to such abuse in the area.

Forest department to seek alternative for alienated land

The physical verification of forest land will provide us a detailed picture of how much deemed forest lands can be retained and how much as to be alienated

BENGALURU

In a decision claimed to retain the green cover in Karnataka, the state forest department is expected to seek land compensation for every hectare of deemed forest to be alienated. With 3.3 lakh hectares of deemed forest under review with a joint survey being undertaken by forest and revenue department, a physical verification is being taken up at the ground level across Karnataka

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said, he has given the department a deadline of March 2026 to complete the survey with the revenue department and provide a report on the extent of land which may have changed characteristics over the decade. But we have all the intent to retain the 3.3 lakh hectare of land under the deemed forest category, said the Minister.

Khandre said every acre of land which will be lost on account of its characteristics being changed or wrongful inclusion of villages, schools and agriculture land being added to it will be compensated with alternative revenue land.

The previous government had done an unscientific job of adding habitations and lands which had lost its character of deemed forest simply to comply with the SC orders. Now, we will try to rectify the same by getting land which has no habitations and convert the same into a deemed forest, said the Minister.

Khandre said the joint survey has been slow in certain parts of the state like Chikkamagaluru but is expected to be completed within the time frame. We intend to have the reports by March, give or take a month, he said.

Meanwhile, Khandre said the tiger census will be launched as early as in the next two months and will be carried out across the state.we definitely believe there is an increase but the census will give us the exact picture, he said.

Dalit progress rooted in leaders' struggles: GT Devegowda

BENGALURU

MLA GT Deve Gowda said that educational institutions that create social equality through education are the real heaven.

Speaking after participating in the 99th Founder's Day celebrations organized at Dr Ambedkar Technical College, Mallathahalli, on the occasion of MH Jayaprakash's 99th birth anniversary, he said that the caste system was in full swing in the 70s. Dalits could not come into our village wearing slippers. There was a heartbreaking situation where separate cups were kept for them and water was served all over the state. He recalled that the Dalit society was able to achieve progress as a result of the struggle of eminent personalities like Jayaprakash, who understood the importance of education.

Dalits did not get proper representation in the field of cooperatives. Not a single Dalit was given the post of president in 30 district unions. He said that during my tenure, a Dalit was able to be elected as president.

He expressed his sadness that it is difficult for those who speak directly to find a presence in the political arena. PVP Trustee S Shivamallu said that Ambedkar was the first Dalit person to understand the power of education. If educational institutions are built, lakhs of families will get food. He said that the responsibility of leading this educational institution of JP, which has been built with immense expectations, lies with all the staff including the trust.

> PVP Trust President and retired IPS officer S Mariswamy said that praising a person is of no use. His ideals should be cherished in the minds of the people. Only then will the practice make sense, he said. The education sector is changing day by day. He said that it is a challenge for all educational institutions to adapt to this dynamic.

Chamundi constituency was deprived of basic amenities. PVP Trust Secretary Dr Mahadev praised GT Deve Gowda as the pioneer of the development of this area. Ambedkar Educational Institution was built by Dalits. But it is not reserved for Dalits. It is not even completely managed by Dalits. People's opinion needs to change, he said.

Air India drops nonstop San Francisco flights from B'luru

BENGALURU

Air India's decision to discontinue its nonstop San Francisco services from Bengaluru and Mumbai from March 1 has triggered confusion and concern among passengers who have made bookings, particularly for travel beyond February 28.

An Air India spokesperson told, the airline has made changes to its North America schedule to better deploy capacity and manage rising costs linked to ongoing airspace restrictions. As part of the rejig, AI will significantly scale up its Delhi operations to North America. The airline will increase Delhi–San Francisco services from seven flights a week to 10, while Delhi–Toronto services will also rise to 10 weekly flights. The airline said passengers affected by the withdrawal of the Bengaluru–San Francisco and Mumbai–San Francisco routes will be re-accommodated on alternative services or offered full refund. Air India will seek to reinstate nonstop service from Bengaluru and Mumbai, should airspace restrictions ease," the spokesperson added.

Responding to the news on social media, a passenger took to X, I have flights booked on BLR–SFO (with return) in May and DEL–SFO (with return) on May 26. What do I do. Others questioned the rationale behind the move, noting the Bengaluru–San Francisco route is largely operated using Boeing 777300ER aircraft.

We booked months ago to avoid last-minute hassles, now, everything is uncertain, said Nakul Tirtha, a Bengaluru-based tech professional.

An Air India passenger posted, I have family travel planned for May. What happens to our return tickets. An Air India official stated that they would reach out to the affected persons. However, while the expanded Delhi services of Air India are expected to absorb some of the displaced demand, the withdrawal of direct flight connectivity to San Francisco from Bengaluru and Mumbai is likely to have an impact on the tech professionals and business travelers who rely heavily on non-stop links to the west coast of United States of America.

'Central govt destroying rural economic security'

BENGALURU

AICC General Secretary Sachin Pilot has criticized the central BJP government for completely destroying the economic security of rural areas by making changes to the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Speaking at a press conference at the KPCC office on Monday, he said, the Indian government has made a historic mistake. For the first time in the country's history, the name of a scheme named after the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhiji, has been changed. For so long, the names of schemes with other names were being changed to Mahatma Gandhiji's name. The Indian government is completely destroying the economic security of the rural areas of the country.

Pulse Polio drive records 95 percent coverage

BENGALURU

The city achieved 95 percent coverage in Sunday's Pulse Polio drive, vaccinating 10.77 lakh children under five. With 68,798 children still pending, door-to-door vaccination will continue across the city till December 24. continue till December 24

Strong public participation marks the National Pulse Polio Immunisation drive in Bengaluru, with authorities intensifying door-to-door outreach to cover the remaining children before December 24.

Bengaluru witnessed an encouraging response to the National Pulse Polio Immunisation campaign held on Sunday, with health officials achieving nearly 95 per cent coverage across the city. According to the Public Health Department of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), a total of 10,77,134 children under the age of five were administered the polio vaccine during the day-long drive.

The immunisation campaign was conducted from 8 am to 5 pm across all civic zones, including GBA Central, West, East, South and North. Special vaccination booths were also set up at high-footfall locations such as Majestic bus stand, BMTC terminals, railway stations and other transit points, where 1,00,746 children received the vaccine.

In addition to booth-based vaccination, health teams also reached out to families directly. During monitoring visits near residential areas, 1,741 children were vaccinated after being identified as missed cases. Officials stated that the Greater Bengaluru Authority has set a target of vaccinating 11,34,988 children under the age of five as part of this campaign. While the single-day drive covered a majority, 68,798 children are still pending vaccination.

To ensure complete coverage, the Pulse Polio campaign will continue until December 24. From Tuesday onwards, ASHA workers, Anganwadi staff and medical personnel will conduct door-to-door visits across the city to vaccinate children who were missed during the main drive.

BIS unveils standardised hospital billing

BENGALURU

In a major move to protect patients from hidden costs and confusing medical bills, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has introduced a new system for hospital billing. The new guidelines aim to make hospital charges transparent, easy to understand and uniform across the country. The decision comes after a long-standing demand from citizens.

A study by community platform Local Circles found 53 percent of patients in India did not receive fully itemised bills. Many were forced to pay lump-sum package charges without knowing what they were actually being billed for. Also, 74 percent of people surveyed wanted the government to mandate a fixed billing format to prevent overcharging.

BUDGET OUTLAY MAY BE CUT BY 6% DUE TO REVENUE SHORTFALL

BENGALURU

Senior government officials said the budget size for the current fiscal year, estimated at ₹4.09 lakh crore is likely to be cut by around 6 percent to ₹3.85 lakh crore.

The state government is looking at an inevitable option of revising down the budget size for 2025-26 with a huge revenue shortfall looming large for multiple reasons, including the GST rate rationalisation.

Senior government officials said the budget size for the current fiscal year, estimated at Rs 4.09 lakh crore is likely to be cut by around 6 percent to Rs 3.85 lakh crore. If this happens, it will be the third successive time that the budget outlay is being reduced from the estimated figure and it also means that there will be a shortage of funds for development since the capital expenditure will be cut proportionately.

The state finances are really in a difficult condition with our revenues spiralling down. And the downward revision of the budget outlay looks inevitable. Ironically, this is despite the robust economic growth in Karnataka and blame is on the wrong steps taken by the Centre in the guise of taxation reforms, said CM's economic adviser Basavaraj Rayareddi.

The Mid Year Review (MYR) of state finance presented in the legislature has stated that the GST rate rationalisation is expected to result in the state suffering a revenue shortfall of around Rs 9,000 crore from commercial taxes.

It said Karnataka will suffer another Rs 9,500-crore dent because of the Centre's decision to levy cess on luxury and sin goods and not to share it with states.Apart from this, a slowdown in the real estate sector, coupled with glitches in the e-khata portal that dealt a blow to property registration, has resulted in a 1 percent decline in revenue from the same period last year. Things are looking up now after the slow pace seen in the initial two quarters. We expect a remarkable recovery in the last two quarters and are trying hard to reach the target, said Mullai Muhilan, Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner Of Stamps.

Unethical corporate–communal nexus behind crises: Vasuki

BENGALURU

Communist Party of India (Marxist) polit bureau member U Vasuki said that the unethical alliance between corporates and communalists was the root cause of all problems in the country.

We need to sharpen our weapons, but these are not knives or sickles. The idea to resist exploitation is a weapon. Idea to challenge status quo and claim our own rights and dignity is a weapon, she said, speaking during the state-level Janadhani rally organised by CPI(M) Karnataka state committee that saw attendance of masses from across the state. She slammed the Modi-led NDA government for replacing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with Vikasit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act.

Right from its inception, the Modi government is destroying Rural Employment Act, and this is the last nail in the coffin. They are using Lord Ram's name to sell their bogus product. For Sangh Parivar, Ram's name is the Unique Selling Point (USP). By latest changes, the basic point of guarantee in the Act is taken away.

DEMAND FOR REHABILITATION

Residents protest at KBG's house after demolition drive

BENGALURU

Protests were held near revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda's residence after a demolition drive in Yelahanka's Kogilu village razed over 200 houses in Waseem Layout and Fakir Colony Saturday. The drive was carried out by Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) to clear encroachments for a proposed solid waste processing unit.

Over 300 residents protesting near the Minister's Sahakar Nagar home demanded alternative housing and temporary shelters for those left homeless after the demolition. Gowda, who represents the Byatarayanapura constituency under which the area falls, is said to have assured a discussion with the residents' representatives. The residents claimed the demolition drive, which began at 4:30am, was conducted without any notice and told that power supply to the area had been cut three days earlier. Several organisations, including Dalit Sangharsha Samithi, Praja Vimochana Chaluvali, and Dudiyuva Janara Vedike are representing the residents and sought temporary shelters and relief centres for those who lost their homes.Accusing the government of being against dalits and minorities, activist Kolageri Ganesh accused Karnataka of following BJP's and UP CM Yogi Adityanath's policy against the poor. He urged Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan to intervene in the matter.

The residents said that those affected people include newborns, pregnant women and senior citizens, and added that some animals lost their lives during the demolition.

BSWML, in a statement, said approximately 5 acres of land earmarked for it was encroached upon, with more than 150 temporary sheds and houses constructed on the site. BSWML CEO Karee Gowda said the firm has taken possession of the land after clearing the encroachments. The drive, carried out with police protection, involved coordinated efforts of BSWML, fire and emergency services, Bengaluru North City Corporation, revenue department and Bengaluru Metropolitan Task Force. BSWML plans to set up a bio-methanation plant, animal rendering unit, animal waste incineration facility, tender coconut waste processing unit, and sanitary waste processing facility in the area.

QUICK READ

DCM Shivakumar inspects development works

Bengaluru

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar inspected the construction of a traffic-friendly road and flyover works from Koramangala to Sarjapur on Monday. Additional Chief Secretary Tushar Girinath, BDA Commissioner Manivannan, DCM Secretary, Bangalore Central Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan, and Chief Engineer Prahlad were present.

Yellow line to run 6th train, one metro every 13 minutes

Bengaluru

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation (BMRCL) has given good news to the passengers of the Yellow Line. The 6th train will start running on this route from tomorrow. So far, only 5 trains were operating on the Yellow Line. With the induction of 6 trains, the metro trains will now run every 13 minutes instead of 15 minutes during peak hours from Monday to Friday. The BMRCL said that there will be metro services every 15 minutes during peak hours on Sundays.

Players' jerseys released

Bengaluru

At the inauguration ceremony of the men's and women's running race held at the GM Party Hall on Ullal Main Road, the players' jerseys were officially released. The chief guests of the event were MLC Saravana, former President of the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce Chinnegowda, actor and producer Gandasi Sadanandaswamy, V2 Gaurishree, senior artist Karisubbu, actress Ratnamala, Shruti, Kavya Gowda, along with the team players and other dignitaries, who were present at the ceremony.

KDA seeks Kannada option in B'luru railway exams

In a letter addressed to the minister, Bilimale expressed concern over the recent recruitment and promotion exams

BENGALURU

Kannada Development Authority (KDA) chairperson Purushottam Bilimale has urged Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna to initiate disciplinary action against officials of the South Western Railway (SWR) Bengaluru division for allegedly denying candidates the opportunity to write departmental exams in Kannada.

In a letter addressed to the Minister, Bilimale expressed concern over the recent recruitment and promotion exams conducted by the Bengaluru division. He noted that while the Mysuru and Hubballi divisions of SWR had permitted candidates to answer in Kannada, the Bengaluru division reportedly restricted the medium of examination, causing deep hurt to the sentiments of Kannadigas.

Bilimale questioned the disparity within the same railway zone, asking why a provision available in Hubballi and Mysuru was denied in the state capital. He urged the minister to order an inquiry into the matter and called for the exams held 15 days ago to be scrapped and conducted afresh. "The denial of the regional language in these exams has led to an injustice against eligible local candidates. These exams must be reconducted to ensure fairness, the letter stated.

The KDA chief further emphasised the need for a self-regulation mechanism within the Railways to prevent such linguistic blunders in the future. The controversy comes at a time when pro-Kannada groups have been increasingly vocal about the alleged imposition of Hindi and the neglect of the state's official language in central government departments operating within the city.

Avoid Confusion to Protect Governance: Home Minister

BENGALURU

In my view, there should be no confusion. Confusion will affect the administration, said Home Minister G Parameshwar.

Speaking to the media near his Sadashivanagar residence on Monday, he agreed, saying, we should respect what he said. I don't know what he meant. I don't know what instructions he is giving. He said to resolve the confusion here. So, the confusion should be resolved here.

In my view, there should be no confusion. If there is confusion, it should be resolved. Good governance should be provided. Confusion affects governance. The message should also go to the officials, Parameshwar clarified.

> Responding to the issue of a lookout notice to MLA Byrati Basavaraj in connection with the murder of rowdy sheeter Biklu Shiva, the Home Minister said, the CID officials will decide what action to take. Will they issue a lookout notice. I don't know if they will issue any other notice. It's all up to the CID, he said.

Speaking about the Delhi trip of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, he said, there is a DWC meeting on December 27. For that, the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister will go to Delhi. The high command can meet at that time. There is nothing special about it.

Reacting to the BJP's opposition to the anti-hate speech bill, he said, this bill has not been brought to target anyone. This bill will only apply to those who make hate speech. It has not been brought with anyone in mind. Everyone should respect the law. Hate speech needs to be curbed. The Supreme Court has also given an order. Many incidents have taken place due to hate speech. Murders have taken place, this must stop. It has been brought with that vision in mind. The BJP is doing politics in this. The bill was passed in the session. We will send it to the Governor. If he asks for an explanation, we will give it.

No prior environmental clearance needed for twin tunnel project, Centre tells NGT

BENGALURU

The Union Environment Ministry has said no prior Environment Clearance (EC) is required prior to taking up the twin tunnel project in Bengaluru, stating that such works come under the ambit of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) rules only when they are part of larger national or state highway projects.

Under the banner of Bengaluru Praja Vedike, activists in September moved an original application before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), questioning the state government's proposal to build a 16.74-km twin tunnel road between Hebbal and Central Silk Board junction.

The activists had contended that the project had got a push despite procedural violations and lack of mandatory EIA process, including public consultation, prompting NGT to issue notice to the authorities.

The activists had listed several reasons that make EC a prior requirement in the proposed project. The major ones include impact of the project on Lalbagh Road, pollution load in places like Peenya industrial area located within 10 km from the project site and questions over disposal of debris generated by the project.

In its response, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change sought to differentiate between the twin tunnel project and the linear projects listed in the EIA notification, issued under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The notification does not contain any standalone provision prescribing EC specifically for the activity of constructing an underground tunnel by itself. Tunnels as an independent category do not form part of the said Schedule, the Ministry said.

The Ministry, however, said that underground tunnel can be subject to prior EC, only when it forms an integral part of a project or activity expressly listed in Schedule 7(f), like a highway.

There is no separate independent requirement of prior EC exclusively for the construction of a tunnel under the EIA notification, 2006, it said, adding that there was no question of a separate EC for the tunnel project.

Among the projects listed in 7(f) are new national highways and highway expansion with length more than 100 km.

175 km metro line to be operational by December 2027, DCM DK Shivakumar

BENGALURU

Our government is taking steps to control traffic congestion by increasing the number of metro lines in Bengaluru. A 175 km long metro line will be operational in Bengaluru city by December 2027, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said.

Shivakumar, who is also the Bengaluru Urban Development Minister, addressed a media conference after holding a meeting with officials at the BMRCL office regarding the metro works.

Currently, a 96 km long metro line is operational. After our government came to power, the yellow line was launched and 24 km long metro traffic has started. 1 lakh people are travelling on this line and the traffic police have said that there has been a 30% reduction in traffic on this line, he said.

In 2026, a 41 km long line will be operational. By December 2027, a 38 km long line, including the airport line, will be operational. With this, a 175 km long line will be operational in Bengaluru. Apart from this, we have planned to extend Magadi Road up to Tavarakere, Hoskote, Bidadi, Nelamangala. The project has been taken up on one side, and DPR is being prepared for the rest, he said.

Next month, tenders will be called for the 100 km long metro work, including the elevated corridor, double decker, in the Metro Phase 3 project. The work is being carried out at a fast pace to control traffic congestion and facilitate people's travel. It has been suggested that more land be acquired near the metro stations and make room for commercial activities. Parking facilities should also be provided, he said.

Tenders for the third phase project are being called. For this work, which costs Rs 25,311 thousand crores, a loan of Rs 15,600 crores is being provided by JICA. The remaining tender for the elevated corridor worth Rs 9,700 crores will be called in January, he informed.

When asked whether the entire route will be elevated corridor,double-decker in the third phase, he said, in the third phase of the project, an elevated corridor will be constructed on the entire route. We are trying to finalize the land for the metro station near Tavarekere. Since people coming from Hassan will come through this route, we have decided to make double-decker here too.

Drug inspector shortage hampers action

BENGALURU

The state drugs control department has filed less than 25 cases against those selling either spurious or adulterated drugs in the last three years.

Shortage of drug inspectors is the main reason for the lack of action against offenders. In 2023-24, 10 such cases were filed and that came down to mere seven in 2024-25; and in 2025-26, only seven cases have been filed. The data was revealed in a written response to a question raised in the just concluded Assembly session.

Of the sanctioned 112 posts of drug inspectors, a miniscule eight have been filled.

Senior officials said though the number of cases filed in the court were low, other actions had been initiated against offenders. But they did not deny that a lack of inspectors was hobbling enforcement.

The number of cases filed at the courts may be low but a large number of inspections have been conducted and action such as suspension of licenses has been taken. However, we cannot deny that absence of drug inspectors has affected enforcement, said Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary (Health).

In 2021, the Karnataka public services commission had published a list of selected candidates for the post. However, the selection was challenged; eventually, a special leave petition was filed in the Supreme Court. Owing to the legal battle, 104 posts of drug inspectors have remained vacant for nearly four years now. We have handed over the responsibilities of conducting inspections and checking for spurious drugs to the assistant drug controllers. However, a lack of inspectors is a problem.

Committee to decide if matches can be held at Chinnaswamy

BENGALURU

Home Minister G Parameshwara said that a committee has been formed to examine the possibility of holding a cricket match at Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The minister held a meeting with Karnataka State Cricket Association office bearers and senior police officers in the sub-committee room of the Vidhana Soudha on Monday. Later, speaking to the media, he said, KSCA has requested permission to hold the Vijay Hazare cricket match on December 24. The public will not be allowed to watch. KSCA has asked that we only hold the match.

A committee has been formed under the leadership of the GBA Commissioner in the interest of the safety of the athletes. The committee, comprising the Bangalore City Police Commissioner, Public Works, Fire and Emergency Services Department, and Health Department, will visit Chinnaswamy Stadium at 3 pm, inspect it, and submit a report to the government. Based on the report submitted by the committee, the government will take the next decision, he said. The Bengaluru City Police Commissioner had already written a letter stating that it is necessary to follow the 17-point recommendations. The committee will review what has been completed and inform the government by 5 pm today. A new KSCA committee was formed just a few days ago.

Fraud in the name of crypto currency investment, ED searches various places

BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has conducted searches at 4th Block Consultants Company and its associated premises in connection with an alleged organised fraud in the name of investing in crypto currency. The ED said in a statement that searches were conducted at the residences and offices of the accused and their associates in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Delhi.

The Enforcement Directorate conducted searches at around 22 locations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The accused, who were targeting foreign nationals and Indian citizens, were promising them profits if they invested in crypto currency through websites they had designed. Although they did not obtain permission for this, they were promoting it on a large scale through social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Telegram, etc. using photos of renowned crypto experts and celebrities to convince people. The accused, who were promising quick returns to those who invested money, were also offering some profits at the initial stage to build their trust, the ED said.

A large number of crypto wallets, foreign bank accounts and companies were created to collect the money. The accused, who had been using this technique since 2015, used the money collected in the form of crypto currency.

BURDEN FOR FLYERS

Cut in air user development fee pushed to next fiscal year

BENGALURU

Passengers flying out of Bengaluru will get no respite from steep airport charges, with the current User Development Fee (UDF) of Rs 550 for domestic and Rs 1,500 for international journeys set to continue till March 31, 2026. The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) has deferred the planned reduction, citing the heavy capital expenditure and revenue shortfall of Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL) as the airport gears up for major expansion.

BIAL said the decision is fully in line with regulatory norms, and there is no case for a reduction at this stage. The continuation of the existing UDF is fully in accordance with AERA's prevailing tariff order and established regulatory practice. Under the tariff framework, any temporary adjustment to charges is typically considered only in the final quarter of a control period. This allows airports to submit their Multi-Year Tariff Proposal (MYTP) in a timely manner, provides the regulator sufficient time to undertake due diligence and notify tariffs for the next control period, and ensures there is no risk of over-recovery, said BIAL spokesperson. BIAL has submitted its MYTP for the upcoming financial year well in advance, the spokesperson added.

Based on the current assessment, there was no over-recovery at Kempegowda International Airport. In the absence of any regulatory basis for a reduction at this stage, AERA has continued the existing UDF for the concluding quarter of the current financial year. However, AERA has now deferred the proposed reduction by extending the existing tariff card that was applicable between April 1 and December 31, 2025.

In its amendment order, AERA noted that while overall passenger and cargo traffic has broadly remained in line with projections, the rising proportion of transit passengers has had a dampening effect on aeronautical revenues. Allowing the continuation of existing tariffs in the final quarter of FY-26 would help partially offset this revenue gap and reduce carrying costs, the regulator said.

Death of businessman close aide, son taken to custody

BENGALURU

The death of businessman Raghunath, a close aide of former TTD President and MP Adikeshavalu, has taken a turn for the worse. In connection with the incident, which took place nearly six years ago, the CBI has been probing the case. Adikeshavalu's son Srinivas and daughter Kalpaja have been taken into custody and are being interrogated. The CBI has registered an FIR on charges of murder and conducted the operation from its Chennai unit.

Raghunath, a trusted businessman of the late Adikesavalu, died unnaturally at Adikesavalu's guest house under HAL police station limits near Kundalahalli in Bengaluru. Raghunath's family had alleged that he was murdered and later portrayed as a suicide. Raghunath, who was also an employee of Adikeshavalu Company, is said to have acquired some properties in his name. Raghunath Adikeshavallu refused to hand over the property to the company. It was also alleged that Adikeshavalu's son Srinivas and daughter Kalpaja had forcibly taken possession of the property. Raghunath was found hanging a few days after the property was deeded.

QUICK READ

Mixed reactions to new pick-up parking fee system

Devanhalli

A week after the implementation of a new pick-up parking fee and access system at Kempegowda International Airport, passengers have expressed a combination of approval and frustration over the changes. The revised rules, introduced to improve traffic flow and enhance safety at arrival terminals, have altered long-standing pick-up practices at the airport. Under the new system, only private vehicles are permitted to enter the arrival gates directly. Yellow-board taxi vehicles have been restricted to designated taxi stands and specific pick-up zones. Airport authorities rolled out the system in phases, with Terminal 2 adopting the new rules from December 11, followed by Terminal 1 from December 13.

MGNREGA renaming will tarnish Prime Minister's image

Doddaballapura

Senior Congress leader and district in-charge minister K. H. Muniyappa criticised the Central government for changing the name of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), stating that the move has caused deep distress among the poor and marginalised sections of society. He warned that such actions would ultimately tarnish the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Muniyappa was speaking at the unveiling of a statue of B. R. Ambedkar, installed by the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Friendship Club at Siddenayakanahalli in Doddaballapura. Addressing a gathering of local residents and party workers, he said the employment guarantee scheme was originally introduced to improve the lives of the poor, rural labourers, and oppressed communities, and any attempt to alter its identity undermines its original intent.

State-level pre-university Kabaddi tournament inaugurated

State-level Pre-University tenny-kabaddi tournaments were inaugurated with leaders urging students to achieve national excellence

GADAG

The state-level Pre-University (PU) college students' tenny-kabaddi tournament was formally inaugurated in Gadag, highlighting the district's growing reputation as a hub for sporting talent. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Karnataka's Law, Justice, Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation and Tourism Minister and Gadag district in-charge minister, H. K. Patil, called upon young athletes to emerge as national and international-level sportspersons.

The tournament is being jointly organised by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Gadag district Pre-University Education Department, associations of PU college principals, lecturers, physical education lecturers, and non-teaching staff. The event is being held at the K.H. Patil Sports Stadium in Gadag and has drawn widespread participation from across the state.

Addressing the gathering, the minister noted that Gadag district has already produced several national and international players in sports such as hockey, cricket, wrestling, volleyball, and athletics. He described it as encouraging that state-level PU college tenny-kabaddi competitions are being hosted in such a sports-oriented district and expressed hope that more national-level tenny-kabaddi players would emerge from Gadag.

Gadag has been provided with multiple sports facilities by the Karnataka government to support athletes, Dr. Patil said. These include a Mahatma Gandhi hockey turf capable of hosting national-level matches, cricket net practice grounds, and four swimming pools that are already in active use. He added that a wooden court would soon be developed at the indoor stadium on Kalasapur Road. Further plans include installing a football turf and floodlight facilities at the K.H. Patil Stadium, enabling athletes to train and compete at higher levels.

The minister urged sportspersons to make optimal use of these facilities and strive for excellence at the national stage. He also encouraged visiting athletes to explore the historic temples and monuments of Gadag-Betageri and Lakkundi, underscoring the district's cultural heritage.

Legislative Council member S. V. Sankanur, speaking on the occasion, appealed to the government to strengthen sports guidance by appointing physical education teachers and lecturers in primary, secondary, pre-university, and degree colleges.

Proposal sent to union Jal Shakti Ministry for funds: DK Shivakumar

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said a proposal has been sent seeking central funds for Bhadra Upper Canal Project

CHITRADRUGA

Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar has informed that a proposal has been submitted to the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti seeking the release of funds under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for the speedy implementation of the Bhadra Upper Canal Irrigation Project. The move follows the Union government's announcement of ₹5,300 crore for the project in the 2023–24 Union Budget.

The deputy Chief minister provided this information in a written reply during the winter session of the Karnataka Legislature held in Belagavi, responding to a notice raised by Chitradurga MLA T. Raghumoorthy. He said the State government is making concerted efforts to ensure timely execution of the project by securing central financial assistance.

The Bhadra Upper Canal Project has been designed to provide irrigation facilities through micro-irrigation systems by utilising 29.90 TMC of water to a drought-prone area spread across Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, and Davanagere districts in central Karnataka. The project aims to irrigate 2,25,515 hectares (5,57,022 acres) of agricultural land and fill 367 lakes up to 50 per cent of their capacity, thereby strengthening both agriculture and groundwater recharge.

The revised project, with an estimated cost of ₹21,473.67 crore, has received administrative approval. For the financial year 2025–26, an allocation of ₹1,440.29 crore has been made, and by the end of November 2025, financial progress amounting to ₹597.92 crore has been achieved. The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the State has also requested the Union government to declare the Bhadra Upper Canal Project as a national project, which would enable faster completion with enhanced central funding.

MLA administers Polio drops at public hospital

CHANNAPATNA

The Pulse Polio Programme was formally launched in Channapatna with a symbolic start at the city's public hospital, where local MLA C. P. Yogeshwar administered polio drops to a child. The initiative is part of the nationwide effort to ensure a polio-free society by vaccinating all children below the age of five. Speaking on the occasion, Yogeshwar emphasised the importance of collective responsibility in eradicating polio. He urged parents and guardians to ensure that every eligible child receives the vaccine, regardless of previous doses. Only through full participation can we protect future generations and sustain India's polio-free status.

A damaged irrigation canal from Saudagar reservoir is causing severe water loss, threatening crops and livelihoods

Leaking canal of Saudagar reservoir sparks farmer distress

YADGIR

The Saudagar reservoir in Yadgir taluk, considered the lifeline for dozens of villages and farmers in the region, is at the centre of growing concern as its main irrigation canal has fallen into a state of severe disrepair. Farmers allege that the authorities have failed to undertake timely repairs for several years, resulting in large-scale leakage and wastage of precious water meant for agricultural use.

The main canal of the Saudagar reservoir plays a crucial role in irrigating farmlands across multiple villages. However, due to prolonged neglect, the canal structure has deteriorated significantly. Large sections of cement lining have peeled off, cracks have developed along the canal walls, and water is now leaking out at several points before it can reach farmers' fields. Locals say that instead of nourishing crops, a huge quantity of reservoir water is being lost along the way.

Villagers from Chattikuni, Yaddalli and Allipura have voiced strong resentment over the situation. According to them, repeated appeals to the irrigation department have yielded no concrete action. They fear that if immediate repairs are not undertaken, the coming weeks could see further crop losses and economic hardship.

Farmers in the region rely heavily on canal water from the Saudagar reservoir, especially for groundnut cultivation, which is a major crop in the area. Due to insufficient water supply, several farmers report that their groundnut fields are already drying up. We depend entirely on this canal. With water leaking everywhere, very little reaches our land. Our crops are wilting before our eyes, said one distressed farmer.

The reservoir itself continues to hold water, but the damaged canal has rendered the irrigation system inefficient. Farmers argue that even a modest repair and proper cement lining of the canal could prevent leakage and restore regular water flow.

Massive devotee turnout at Male Mahadeshwara Hill

CHAMARAJANAGAR

A massive influx of devotees was witnessed at Male Mahadeshwara Hill on the occasion of the Sesame New Moon festival, popularly known as Ellu Amavasya. Thousands of pilgrims from across Karnataka, as well as neighbouring states such as Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, arrived at the sacred hill shrine to seek the blessings of Lord Mahadeshwara and offer special prayers.

From the early hours of the morning, the entire hilly region was transformed into a sea of devotees, with long queues forming for darshan. Despite the challenging terrain and dense forest surroundings, pilgrims of all ages made the journey to the temple, underscoring the deep spiritual significance of the occasion. Authorities said the crowd turnout was significantly higher compared to regular days, reflecting the importance of Ellu Amavasya in the religious calendar.

The temple administration had made elaborate arrangements well in advance to manage the heavy footfall. Special puja-punaskara rituals were conducted continuously from morning till late night on both days. These included special abhishekam, mahamangalarati, and various harake pujas performed by priests in accordance with temple traditions. Devotees patiently waited for hours to participate in the rituals and witness the sacred ceremonies.

To ensure the smooth movement of pilgrims, temple authorities, along with police and volunteers, were deployed at key points across the hill. Separate queues were arranged to regulate darshan, while drinking water facilities, medical aid, and basic amenities were provided to devotees. Crowd control measures were intensified, especially during peak hours, to avoid congestion near the sanctum sanctorum.

Many devotees said they had undertaken the pilgrimage after making vows, believing that prayers offered on the Sesame New Moon are especially powerful. We come here every year during Ellu Amavasya. Lord Mahadeshwara fulfils our wishes and protects our families, said a devotee from Mandya district.

Street play raises health and road safety awareness at bus stations

CHINTAMANI

An awareness programme using street theatre was organised at the government and private bus stations in Chintamani, aiming to educate the public about health facilities and road safety measures. The initiative was jointly conducted by the Health Department and Police Department in collaboration with the Siddhartha Youth Sports Cultural Development Association. Through an engaging street play, performers conveyed important messages about the various services available under the Health Department, while also highlighting the need for responsible behaviour on roads. The programme attracted the attention of commuters, drivers, and the general public at the busy bus stations, making effective use of public spaces to spread awareness.

Speaking on the occasion, police officer Prakash emphasised the importance of road safety for the well-being of individuals and families. He urged motorists to compulsorily wear helmets while driving two-wheelers, stating that it is essential not only for legal compliance but also for personal health and safety. He also cautioned against overspeeding and appealed to people to drive slowly and responsibly to protect themselves and their loved ones. Prakash further appealed to citizens to strictly follow traffic rules and police instructions, noting that negligence on the road often results in serious injuries or loss of life, causing irreversible pain to families. "Driving responsibly is not just about saving oneself but also about safeguarding family members who depend on us," he said.

Health Department official Mallurappa highlighted the alarming number of deaths among youth due to rash and high-speed driving in both urban and rural areas. He said young people form the backbone of families and society, and irresponsible driving has been leading to tragic and avoidable accidents. He urged youth to understand their responsibilities and adopt safe driving habits.

Third arrest made in K'taka navy espionage case

UDUPI

Karnataka Police have made a third arrest in a serious national security case involving the alleged transfer of sensitive Indian Navy information to Pakistan. The latest breakthrough came after sleuths from the Malpe Police Station in Udupi district arrested 34-year-old Hitendra, a resident of Kailashnagari in Gujarat.

According to investigators, Hitendra is suspected to have played a key logistical role in the espionage operation by allegedly supplying SIM cards to the two accused arrested earlier. Police sources revealed that the SIM cards were provided in exchange for money and were allegedly used to facilitate communication for passing classified information. Given the sensitivity of the case, Hitendra is currently being questioned in detail, and investigators believe more individuals may be involved in the network.

The arrest follows the earlier detention of two men on November 21 for allegedly sharing confidential Indian Navy intelligence with handlers in Pakistan through social media platforms such as WhatsApp and Facebook. The accused were employed at the Cochin Shipyard unit in Malpe and were apprehended by Udupi Police after a complaint was filed by the shipyard's Chief Executive Officer.

The two accused have been identified as 20-year-old Rohit and 37-year-old Santri, both residents of Sultanpur district in Uttar Pradesh. They have since been remanded to judicial custody. Police have booked them under Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) along with Sections 3 and 5 of the Official Secrets Act, underscoring the gravity of the charges.

Superintendent of Police Hariram Shankar earlier stated that the investigation was led by Assistant Police Commissioner Harsha Priyamvada and Malpe Station Sub-Inspector D. Anil Kumar. Acting on a tip-off, a special police team traced the suspects to a rented room in Malpe and carried out the arrests.

BAGALKOT CHILD ABUSE

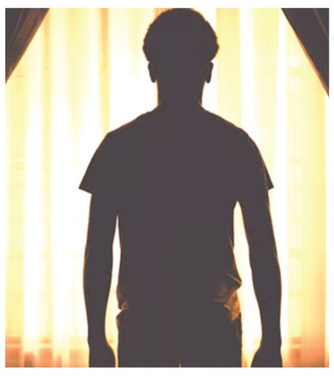
Four arrested for assaulting a disabled teen

BAGALKOT

Four people have been taken into custody in Bagalkot district after a disturbing video showing the brutal assault of a 16-year-old disabled boy at a residential school surfaced on social media, triggering widespread outrage and swift police action.

The incident reportedly occurred around three months ago at Divyajyoti School for Differently Abled Children, a residential institution located in the Navanagar area of Bagalkote. However, the abuse remained undisclosed until recently, when a former employee of the school shared the video with the victim's parents. Following this, the parents approached the police, leading to the registration of a case.

The video footage, which has since gone viral, shows the teenage boy lying helplessly on the floor while being repeatedly beaten with a belt and a plastic pipe. His legs appear to be pinned down during the assault as he cries out for help. In an even more shocking sequence, chilli powder is allegedly thrown into the boy's eyes, while an onlooker can be heard laughing, underscoring the cruelty involved.



Siddharth Goyal confirmed that the residential school is run by a husband-and-wife duo. Based on the complaint lodged by the child's parents, an FIR was registered under relevant provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, which deals with offences against children.

Police have identified the main accused as Akshay Indulkar, who is alleged to have led the assault. His wife is accused of actively participating in the abuse. Two caretakers employed at the institution have also been arrested in connection with the case. The school is run by a non-governmental organisation and caters to children with various disabilities, raising serious concerns about oversight and child safety. According to preliminary investigations and media reports, the video was allegedly recorded by a staff member present at the time of the incident.

PREGNANT WOMAN KILLED IN ALLEGED HONOUR CRIME

A pregnant woman was brutally killed in Hubballi taluk over her inter-caste marriage, triggering outrage and police action

Continued from page 1

In a shocking case of alleged honour killing, a Lingayat man in Hubballi taluk has been accused of beating his 20-year-old pregnant daughter to death for marrying a man from a Scheduled Caste community. The brutal assault also left her husband's parents seriously injured. The incident has sent shockwaves across the region and renewed concerns over caste-based violence and inter-caste marriages.

The victim, identified as Manya Patil, succumbed to severe head injuries at a private hospital on Sunday, December 22. Her unborn child also did not survive. The attack occurred at Inam Veerapura village, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Hubballi Rural Police Station.

According to Gunjan Arya, Manya's father, Prakashgouda Patil, along with his relatives, allegedly assaulted her at her husband's residence using lethal weapons, including an axe and an iron sprinkler pipe. The violent attack took place around 6.30 pm, and despite being rushed for medical treatment, Manya died approximately three hours later.

Her father-in-law and mother-in-law were also attacked during the incident and sustained injuries. They are currently undergoing treatment at a hospital. Police officials stated that the assailants allegedly first attacked Manya's husband Vivekananda and his father while they were working in a field, before forcibly entering the house and continuing the assault.

Manya had married Vivekananda, a man from the Madar caste belonging to the same village, earlier this year. The couple reportedly met while studying in college and had registered their marriage in Hubballi. From the beginning, the marriage faced stiff opposition from Manya's family. Following the wedding, police had intervened due to concerns about the couple's safety and had summoned both families, issuing strict warnings against harassment or violence.

Swamiji's batchmates arrange prasada for hostel students

KOPPAL

In a gesture of service and social commitment, the batchmates of Sri Gavisiddeshwara Mahaswamiji, who pursued their degree studies during the 1997–98 academic year, organised a prasada arrangement for hostel students and a special meal for senior citizens in Koppal. The initiative reflected the group's continued dedication to community welfare and compassion.

The programme was organised at the Sri Gavisiddeshwara College and the Sri Gavisiddeshwara Hostel, where students were served a wholesome prasada meal. In addition, the alumni group extended their service to the residents of the Surabhi Old Age Home by arranging food and spending quality time with the elderly.

Members of the 1997–98 degree batch, who are close associates of Sri Gavisiddeshwara Mahaswamiji of Gavimath, have taken a collective resolve to organise a one-day prasada arrangement for hostel students every year in December. This tradition has been followed consistently for the past two years and continues to gain appreciation for its sincerity and impact.

Alumni of Gavimath Swamiji organised prasada for hostel students and meals for elderly residents

On the day of the programme, alumni members arrived in Koppal from various places and first visited the Surabhi Old Age Home. They interacted warmly with the senior citizens, engaging them in conversations, sharing experiences, and bringing smiles to their faces. The elderly residents were then served a well-prepared and nutritious meal, which was received with gratitude and joy.

Later, at the Sri Gavisiddeshwara Hostel, prasada was served to all hostel students. The menu included wheat huggi, pulao, rice, sambar, and brinjal curry, prepared and served with devotion. Students expressed happiness and thanked the alumni for remembering them and supporting their welfare.

Speaking informally, members of the alumni group said that such service activities help them stay connected to their roots and instil values of compassion and responsibility.

Registration for tur dal procurement to begin from Dec 24

CHIKKABALLAPUR

The district administration has announced that registration for the procurement of tur dal under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme will commence from December 24 across Chikkaballapur district. District Collector P. N. Ravindra has appealed to farmers cultivating tur dal to make use of the opportunity by registering promptly and in large numbers. Presiding over a meeting of the District Task Force Committee on tur dal procurement under the MSP scheme at the District Collector's office on Monday, Ravindra outlined the roadmap for registration and procurement.

National Consumer Day to be observed on December 24

CHITRADURGA

The National Consumer Day–2025 will be observed on December 24 (Wednesday) in Chitradurga with an awareness programme jointly organised by various government departments and legal bodies. The event aims to promote consumer rights, responsibilities, and awareness among the public.

According to an official release issued on December 22, the programme has been organised by the district administration and Zilla Panchayat in association with the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Legal Metrology Department, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Food Safety and Drug Administration, District Scheduled Castes Welfare Department, District Advocates Association, and Chitradurga District LPG Distributors.

The event will be held at Valmiki Bhavan, located near Madakarinayaka Circle in the city. The programme will be inaugurated by V. Somashekhar, First Additional District and Sessions Judge. The programme will be presided over by T. Venkatesh, Deputy Commissioner of Chitradurga district.

Key dignitaries attending the programme as chief guests include M. Murthy, Additional Advocate General, H. N. Meena, President of the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, and B. H. Yashodha, Member of the Commission.The President of the District Advocates Association, H. S. Maheshwarappa, will deliver a special lecture.

18-year-old girl missing, police ask help

CHITRADURGA

The police have appealed to the public for assistance in tracing an 18-year-old girl who has gone missing from Holalkere taluk in Chitradurga district. According to an official release dated December 22, Lakshmi Suresh Naik, a resident of Nandihalli village, has been missing since December 15.

A case regarding her disappearance was registered on December 16 at the Chikkajajur Police Station. Police said Lakshmi had been pursuing her studies at a college in Davangere and had appeared for the second PUC examination, in which she was unsuccessful.

On December 15, Lakshmi reportedly left home stating that she was going to college to pay her examination fee. However, she did not return home thereafter, raising concern among her family members. After waiting and making inquiries without success, the family approached the police, following which a missing person case was registered and an investigation was initiated.

Police have issued a description of the missing girl to aid in identification. Lakshmi is about 4.8 feet tall, has an average build, a broad face, and wheatish complexion. She speaks Kannada and Lambani languages. Officials have urged people to carefully note these details and report any information that could help trace her whereabouts. The missing girl belongs to Nandihalli in Holalkere. Police teams are conducting searches and making inquiries in nearby areas and transit points as part of the investigation.

The police have requested anyone who has seen Lakshmi or has any relevant information to immediately contact the authorities. Information can be shared with the Chikkajajur Police Inspector on mobile number 9480803150 or with the Holalkere Circle Police Inspector on mobile number 9480803135.

Police officials have assured that any information provided by the public will be kept confidential. They stressed that timely inputs from citizens can play a crucial role in tracing missing persons and reuniting them with their families.

Applications invited for financial assistance

GADAG

The Gadag district administration has invited applications for financial assistance to persons with disabilities under the 5 per cent reservation scheme for the years 2021–22 and 2024–25. The assistance will be provided under funds allocated by the State Finance Commission (SFC) and the Gadag-Betageri City Municipal Council. According to the official notification issued on December 22, applications are being accepted for two specific categories. Under the 2021–22 5 per cent scheme, eligible students with disabilities can apply for educational assistance to support their academic needs. Meanwhile, under the 2024–25 5 per cent scheme, applications have been invited to extend financial support to sportspersons with disabilities.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ABDUL AZEEZ S/o Shri MOHAMMED T, R/o Eidga Mohalla, Subhash Nagara, Kadur, Chickmagalur, Karnataka - 577548, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MOKSHITH KADUR.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, ABDUL AZEEZ son of Shri MOHAMMED T, residing at Eidga Mohalla, Subhash Nagara, Kadur, Chickmagalur, Karnataka - 577548, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced HINDUISM and renounced ISLAM with effect from 26/09/2025.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANJULA W/o PRABHUDEVA, R/o Channapura, Baggavalli, Chikkamagaluru, Tarikere, Karnataka-577547, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANJAMMA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KASTURIBAI KONNUR alias NIRMALABAYI alias KASTURIBAI ANCHVARADACHARYA BIDARI W/o JAGANMOHAN KONNUR, R/o H No 2-911/28/7, Shahabad Road, Near Hanumaan Temple, Vande Matarambadavane, Gulbarga, Karnataka-585105, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KASTURIBAI BIDARI.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ವೈನ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್
(ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ಇಂದಿರಾ ಪ್ರಿಯದರ್ಶಿನಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯದ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಕಬ್ಬನ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560001
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080 – 22341237
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : md@karnatakawineboard.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ವೈನಿ/ಕ.ದ್ರಾ.ವೈ.ಬೋ./45/2025–26 ದಿ: 18–12–2025

ಇ– ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025–26ನೇ ಹಾಗೂ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ವೈನ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಟೆಂಡರುದಾರರು ದಿನಾಂಕ 25–12–2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ ಮತ್ತು ವೈನ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್, ಇಂದಿರಾಪ್ರಿಯದರ್ಶಿನಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯದ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಕಬ್ಬನ್ ಪಾರ್ಕ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560001, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–22341237, ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/4604/ಆಕಾರ್/2025–26

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayath Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru-560070.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/JE-01/30/2025-26 Date: 20.12.2025
Corrigendum Date: 22-12-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No:30/2025-26
(Single Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Tenders are invited through K.P.P Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D Bangalore Urban for 2515 Grants Works. The work details can obtained from the KPP Website. The Tender documents can be obtained and submitted on or before: 29/12/2025 upto 4.00 P.M. Further details can be obtained from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/4611/SPAN/2025-26

REVENUE COMMISSIONERATE, REVENUE DEPARTMENT
BHOOMI MONITORING CELL
1st floor SSLR Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
E-mail: bhoomi.bmc01@gmail.com Phone: 080-22113255

No: BMC/2025-26/IND0024 Date: 22/12/2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for procurement of **298 Printers** to Revenue Offices of Karnataka. The last date for uploading filled tender forms in K.P.P Portal is **07-01-2026 by 5.29 P.M.**

Details regarding terms and conditions are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Assistant Commissioner,
Bhoomi Monitoring Cell, Revenue Department.

DIPR/CP/4619/SPAN/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development
Office of the Executive Engineer
M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO : 26/2025-26 , Dated: 18-12-2025

On behalf of the Governer of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore invites tenders from registered and eligible contractors under "Kppp" Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender documents of KW1 and KW2 for 65 works, minimum tender amount Rs5.00 lakhs, maxmium tender amount Rs 50.00 Lakhs and EMD amount minimum Rs0.062 lakhs and maximum amount Rs1.25 lakhs. The other tender details are given below. Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office during office hours up to: Date: 26.12.2025 – 12.30 PM. Last date to upload the tenders with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Date: 26.12.2025 – 5.30 PM. The bids will be opened Date: 29.12.2025 – 11-00 AM

Note: All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all bids or any individual bids of this tender notification without assigning any reasons by the under signed. The terms and conditions for each work is published in the "Kppp" Tender Portal. Any corrigendum pertains to above tender will be published in KPP Portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Mysore.
DIPR/DDMYS/1401/KSMCA/797/2025-26

Office of The City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
No.: CCC.ADM-II.43/2025/Cleaning Staff/2025-26 Date: 20.12.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

The City Civil Court, Bengaluru invites e-bidding proposals (quotations) through the e-procurement website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/Auctions/live) from eligible institutions/agencies/business operators/manpower service providers (having branch office in Bengaluru city only) for providing the following service contract. Tender No.: ADM-II.43/2025/Part Time Menials Dated: 20.12.2025. Tender No. (as issued by KPPP): HCK/2025-26/SE0097 Call2 Dated: 20.12.2025. Tender Name / Services sought for: **Procurement of Cleaning Persons for cleaning purposes through outsource on service contract basis for the premises measuring a total area of 1,34,631.21 Sq.m, to perform all cleaning services as mentioned in the tender.** Tender Contract Period: **3 years, renewable each year, subject to satisfactory quality/performance or until order of discontinuation of the said services.** Estimated Approx. Total Tender Amount: **No estimation drawn, as no reference to calculate the said services is found. Rs. 50,00,000/- is taken as nominal estimated tender cost for KPPP website requirement only.** EMD Amount: **Rs. 50,000/- (Nominal EMD with no link to tender estimation cost). PBG will be based on the tender-awarded value.** Last date for clarification: **26.12.2025 at 2.00 PM.** Last date and time for submission of tender proposal: **27.12.2025 at 5.00 PM.** Date and time of opening of tender: **Technical Bid: 29.12.2025 at 10.01 AM** (Financial Bid - upon approval of Technical Bid). Pre-bid meeting date: **26.12.2025 at 1.30 PM (at the above office).** For further details: Tel: 080-22939220 / **Email: cccadm2@gmail.com**

Sd/- Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
DIPR/DD-C.P/4601/KSMCA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2025-26/5538 DATE:20/12/2025

E-Tender Notification

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise e-Tenders from Registration in KPWD Department authorized by Karnataka Government for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 2 work under head of account 5054-03-337-0-17-154 -State Highway Improvements amount put to tender is Rs. 161.34 Lakhs and Rs. 145.23 Lakhs respectively.

Calendar of events:1)Pre Bid Meeting Date: 01-01-2026 AT 11.00 PM, 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 03-01-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 06-01-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 08-01-2026 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 6)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikodi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1522/KSMCA/2025-26

ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ
ಸಂತೆ ಬೀದಿ ವೃತ್ತ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ ಅಂಚೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560090
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–28395098, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: ka.chikkabanavara.tmc@gmail.com
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.chikkabanavaratown.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಪು.ಕಾ.ಚಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್/10/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.12.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಇಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
01	DMA/2025-26/IND5403	106000.00
02	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT49141/ CALL-2 (Reserved)	25000.00
03	DMA/2025-26/SE6923	180313.00
04	DMA/2025-26/SE6917	48157.00
05	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT52586	20882.00
06	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52987	20229.00
07	DMA/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT52975	36330.00
08	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT52971	21051.00
09	DMA/2025-26/SE6943	59840.00
10	DMA/2025-26/SE6944	59840.00

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. (2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:05.01.2026** ರಂದು (3) ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.12.2025**. (4) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿಯುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವಾರ

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/4605/ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ/2025–26

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QUICK READ

'India needs more investment to lead education'

Nalanda

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Monday said India still has a long road to become a global learning centre. Speaking at the Nalanda Literature Festival, he warned that big global ambitions cannot replace strong investment in schools and universities. Tharoor noted that India's position in global university rankings has slipped. While a few Indian institutions have entered the top 200, none are among the top 50 or top 10 worldwide.

Former IPS officer shoots self after cyber fraud loss

Patiala

Former IPS officer Amar Singh Chahal allegedly shot himself on Monday after being cheated of Rs 8.10 crore by cyber fraudsters posing as wealth management advisors. In a purported note, he blamed the online scam for his action. Chahal was rushed to a hospital in critical condition, Patiala Senior Superintendent of Police Varun Sharma said. Chahal was earlier named as an accused in the 2015 police firing cases linked to anti-sacrilege protests in Faridkot.

Crimes, terrorism will face strong action: Police

Jammu

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Monday said terrorism and all other crimes will remain under strict police watch and action. He said the force aims to fully eliminate anti-national and anti-social elements from the Union Territory. Speaking after inaugurating the 14th Police Shaheed Smriti T20 Cricket Tournament at Kathua stadium, the DGP warned that drug mafias, gangsters and terrorists will not be spared.

India-New Zealand FTA will accelerate bilateral partnership: EAM

The India-New Zealand trade pact signals faster growth, stronger ties and wider economic cooperation

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday said the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement marks a major step forward.

Describing the agreement as a landmark, Jaishankar said it would greatly boost trade, investment and economic cooperation between the two countries. In a post on X, he noted that the FTA places bilateral ties on an accelerated growth path. He added that the pact was concluded in record time under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, reflecting shared ambition and strong political will.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi spoke to Prime Minister Luxon over the phone, during which both leaders jointly announced the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement. Modi said the deal, finalised in just nine months, highlighted the commitment of both nations to deepen economic engagement. He described the agreement as historic and said it would open new avenues for trade, investment and innovation.

The leaders also welcomed progress in defence cooperation, sports exchanges, education partnerships and people-to-people ties. They agreed that negotiations, launched during Luxon's visit to India in March 2025, had moved swiftly due to mutual trust and shared goals.

The FTA will expand market access, boost investments and deepen cooperation, benefiting farmers, MSMEs, youth and innovators. Leaders expect trade to double in five years. New Zealand said 95 per cent tariffs will ease, exports may rise USD 1.3 billion yearly, and USD 20 billion will be invested in India.

WB CM alleges errors in SIR, slams Election Commission

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday criticised the Election Commission of India over alleged gross errors in the Special Intensive Revision exercise in the state. She was speaking at a meeting of Trinamool Congress booth level agents at the Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata. Banerjee claimed the Special Intensive Revision was conducted in an unplanned manner and said observers were appointed without informing the state government. She alleged the Election Commission was acting on directions of the BJP and ignoring ground realities.

The Chief Minister said central officers appointed as micro observers lacked local language knowledge and proper training. She said many could not understand Bengali, Nepali or Lepcha and were unfit to conduct hearings. Banerjee also questioned changes in voter addresses, names and marital status during the revision process. She urged booth level agents to ensure no genuine voter faced trouble during verification hearings.

The Trinamool Congress chief alleged the BJP planned to remove nearly one point five crore voters from rolls. She claimed outsiders were being brought into Bengal to influence the upcoming elections. Banerjee accused the Centre of using the Election Commission to control and insult Bengal. She said such moves aimed to undermine the state culture and democratic traditions.

Jaishankar to visit Sri Lanka as PM's envoy after Cyclone Ditwah

NEW DELHI

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will visit Sri Lanka on December 23 as Prime Minister's Special Envoy. His trip comes at a crucial time, with India extending strong humanitarian support to its neighbor after the devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah.

The Ministry of External Affairs said the visit reflects India's "Neighbourhood First" policy and aims to strengthen ties with Sri Lanka's leadership. It also highlights ongoing relief efforts under Operation Sagar Bandhu, launched to assist communities hit by the cyclone.

Last week, the Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy distributed dry ration packets to 86 affected families in Badulla District. Local parliamentarians and officials joined the effort, underscoring India's commitment to helping Sri Lanka recover.

Medical assistance has also been a major part of India's outreach. The Sri Lankan Army recently commended the Indian Army's 60 Parachute Field Hospital for its exceptional relief work. An 85-member medical team, led by Lieutenant Colonel Jagneet Gill, was deployed in Mahiyanganaya, Uva Province, from December 2 to 12. The team provided medical, surgical, and dental care to more than 7,000 civilians impacted by the cyclone.

Jaishankar's engagements are expected to reinforce bilateral cooperation and humanitarian coordination as Sri Lanka rebuilds. His visit symbolizes India's solidarity with its neighbor during a difficult time, while also strengthening regional ties.

India's continued support through food supplies, medical aid, and diplomatic outreach shows its resolve to stand by Sri Lanka as the country recovers from Cyclone Ditwah's destruction.

Concerns grow over Bangladesh India relations

NEW DELHI

Foreign affairs expert Robinder Sachdev on Monday expressed concern over recent remarks by Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus.

Sachdev said statements made by Yunus at the funeral of slain activist Sharif Osman Hadi showed a troubling political direction. He pointed out that Yunus publicly pledged to carry forward Hadi's political ideas, which Sachdev described as problematic for regional ties.

Quoting Yunus, Sachdev said the Chief Adviser promised future generations would follow Hadi's political philosophy. He noted that Hadi's central belief was that democracy in Bangladesh could not succeed unless the country distanced itself from India. Sachdev said such thinking was worrying, as India has long supported Bangladesh's stability, development and security.

Remarks by Bangladesh's interim leadership have raised concerns over ideology, stability and future India-Bangladesh relations

Yunus, while addressing mourners, said Hadi would remain part of Bangladesh's political life and praised his style of respectful politics. He also said the leadership would act confidently on the global stage without bowing to pressure. Yunus described Hadi's desire to contest elections as an example of democratic participation.

Meanwhile, former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina strongly criticised the Yunus-led interim government. In an interview, she said violence and lawlessness had increased after her removal and were harming Bangladesh's image abroad. She warned that instability was straining relations with neighbouring countries, especially India.

Hasina alleged that minorities were unsafe and extremist forces were gaining influence under the interim government. She claimed convicted terrorists were released and radical groups allowed into public life. She said such developments should alarm India and others concerned about South Asian stability.

Osman Hadi was shot in Dhaka on December 12 and died on December 18, triggering protests and unrest. Hasina blamed the interim government for failing to control violence, protect minorities and safeguard diplomatic missions. Bangladesh remains tense amid protests, security concerns and scrutiny ahead of next year's elections.

Kerala plans special drive to add new voters

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala is set to launch a special voter enrolment drive after completing the house-to-house survey under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The enumeration phase ended on December 18, and the draft electoral rolls will be published on Tuesday. Election officials said the new drive will focus on adding first-time voters and eligible citizens whose names are missing from the rolls.

Chief Electoral Officer Rathan U. Kelkar said the drive mainly aims to include people who have turned 18 and others who are yet to be registered as voters. The effort is intended to ensure maximum voter inclusion before the next stage of the election process.

So far, officials have received 2.92 lakh applications through Form 6 for fresh enrolment. In addition, 15,157 applications were filed through Form 6A by overseas voters. These applications will be verified and processed after the draft rolls are released.

Kelkar said digitisation of all enumeration forms was completed by 10 a.m. on December 18, marking full completion of the data entry work. However, many entries were marked uncollectable under the Absent, Shifted and Dead (ASD) categories.

A total of 24.81 lakh entries, or 8.91 per cent of voters, were flagged. This includes 6.49 lakh deceased voters, 6.89 lakh untraceable voters, 8.21 lakh shifted voters, 1.34 lakh duplicate entries and 1.86 lakh under other reasons.

The ASD list has been uploaded on the Chief Electoral Officer's website and shared with political parties. A revised list will be published with the draft rolls on December 23. Claims and objections can be filed till January 22, 2026. Final rolls will be published on February 21.

India leads in digital health, innovation, says Patel

NEW DELHI

India is at the forefront of digital health and innovative technologies, said Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Anupriya Patel, on Monday. Speaking at the seventh annual convocation of Vardhman Mahavir Medical College & Safdarjung Hospital, Patel urged new doctors to maintain compassion and humanity in their medical practice. "As doctors, you have entered into a social contract, so that touch of humanity should not go anywhere," she said.

Congratulating the graduating students, she highlighted the crucial role of public medical institutions in strengthening India's healthcare system. She added that medical degrees represent not just academic achievement but also qualities like compassion, dedication, and perseverance that are vital in the profession.

Patel underscored the transformation in India's healthcare over the past 11 years. More than 1.82 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs now provide comprehensive primary care. Secondary healthcare gaps are being addressed in CHCs and district hospitals, while tertiary care facilities are expanding and medical education is being reimagined.

The number of medical colleges has grown from 387 to 819, AIIMS institutes from 7 to 23, undergraduate seats from 51,000 to 1,28,000, and postgraduate seats from 31,000 to 82,000.

She also highlighted Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY, which provides free health coverage up to Rs 5 lakh to over 62 crore people. Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana and Amrit Pharmacies offer medicines, devices, and surgical implants at discounted rates.

During the convocation, more than 393 students across undergraduate, postgraduate, and super-specialty courses received degrees, with 43 awarded medals for exceptional performance and dedication.

NCDC, WHO India hold 2-day meet to boost influenza preparedness

Influenza Chintan Shivir
Strengthening Interministerial and Inter Sectoral Convergence
22-23 December 2025 | New Delhi

NEW DELHI

The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), in collaboration with WHO India, on Monday began a two-day meeting to strengthen influenza preparedness across the country.

The Chintan Shivir, titled "Strengthening Interministerial and Intersectoral Convergence for Influenza Preparedness and Response," is scheduled from December 22 to 23 in New Delhi. It provides a platform for key stakeholders to discuss ways to improve preparedness and response ahead of the upcoming influenza season.

Influenza continues to pose a major public health challenge in India and globally. The contagious respiratory disease affects the nose, throat, and lungs, causing periodic outbreaks with high morbidity and mortality, particularly among children, older adults, pregnant women, and people with chronic illnesses.

Union Health Minister JP Nadda, addressing the inaugural session virtually, highlighted the importance of aligning preparedness and response activities, including surge capacities, for the forthcoming influenza season. He underlined the role of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) in monitoring seasonal influenza trends across States and Union Territories in real time.

The meeting stressed the need for coordination across sectors for surveillance, early warning, laboratory readiness, clinical care, and risk communication. Around 110 representatives from ministries, departments, and institutions participated, aiming to develop a practical preparedness checklist to assess readiness, identify gaps, and guide follow-up actions.

The Chintan Shivir also promoted One Health–based preparedness, linking human, animal, and environmental health systems. By encouraging whole-of-government coordination, the initiative strengthens India's pandemic readiness and response, supporting national and global health security under the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

VEDIC EDUCATION

MP plans to set up Gurukul schools to teach Sanskrit

BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government has announced plans to set up new Gurukul-style schools that will teach Sanskrit, Vedas, Yoga, and later, education on cows. School Education Minister Uday Pratap Singh said the initiative aims to blend ancient Indian knowledge with modern learning, promoting holistic development.

Specialised schools are being developed in Rajgarh and Narsinghpur districts. Initially, students will study Sanskrit, Vedas, and Yoga. Later, lessons on cows will be introduced, focusing on their cultural, health, and scientific importance. Singh said cows inspire energy and well-being, adding that these schools will serve as centres of inspiration and research.

The minister explained that the move aligns with efforts to revive Vedic education and cow conservation. He noted that similar to the Sandipani schools for Sanskrit in Indore and Ujjain, these Gurukuls will be named after Adi Shankaracharya. If successful, more such schools will be opened across the state.

Alongside traditional subjects, the government is also working to reduce dropout rates by introducing vocational training. Singh said 3,367 higher secondary schools will include trades and job-role training. Agriculture has already been introduced in 690 schools, with plans to expand further. Professional education has been added in 984 schools during 2025-26, raising enrolment from 4 lakh to 5.90 lakh students. The goal is full enrolment next year.

While mainstream science supports the nutritional value of cow milk and products, no peer-reviewed studies confirm cows as sources of "energy" or "inspiration." However, traditional Ayurvedic texts highlight their revered role in purity and vitality.

QUICK READ

Nepali girl receives life-saving heart transplant

Thiruvananthapuram
A 23-year-old Nepali woman, Durga Kami, received a new heart in Kerala, bringing hope after months of waiting. Suffering from Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy, a genetic heart condition, Kami lost her mother and sister to the same illness. The heart came from 47-year-old R Shibu of Kollam, declared brain dead after an accident. The transplant at Kochi's government hospital is the first district-level heart surgery in India. Shibu's other organs helped six patients. Kerala High Court granted Kami priority for the organ.

Delhi Police bust fake medicine packaging unit

New Delhi
Delhi Police on Monday busted a printing unit supplying wrappers for fake medicines and cosmetics, arresting two men. The action is part of an ongoing probe into spurious drug manufacturing. The accused, Anil Singh Rawat, who ran the Rama Road printing press, and Rahul Agarwal, who ordered the wrappers, allegedly helped Shree Ram produce and sell counterfeit medicines. Earlier, three others were arrested in the case. Police recovered dye frames used to print packaging for the fake products.

Def Min facilitates DRDO-RRU MoU for defence research, training

Under the MoU, both organisations will jointly conduct research, training, and technology studies to strengthen India's defence and internal security

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday facilitated an MoU between DRDO and Rashtriya Raksha University for research, training, and technology support in defence and internal security. The agreement was signed by DRDO's Distinguished Scientist Chandrika Kaushik and RRU Vice Chancellor Bimal N Patel at South Block, with DRDO Chairman Samir V Kamat also present.

The MoU aims to boost India's self-reliance in defence and internal security technologies, supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision. It reflects a commitment to integrate technology, knowledge, and operational insight to strengthen national security and strategic autonomy.

Rashtriya Raksha University, an institution of national importance under the Ministry of Home Affairs, offers academic, training, and policy expertise in internal security. DRDO contributes indigenous technologies and system-level expertise to meet Armed Forces and security agency requirements.

Under the agreement, both organisations will collaborate on joint research projects, PhD and fellowship programmes, and specialised training for security forces. The partnership will also cover emerging operational challenges, technology gap analysis, forecasting future requirements, and life-cycle management of DRDO-developed systems used by Central Armed Police Forces and other agencies under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

This collaboration is seen as a step forward in combining academic research and practical defence technology, aiming to ensure that India stays at the forefront of innovation and preparedness in both defence and internal security sectors.

ISRO Chairman prays at Tirumala ahead BlueBird launch

TIRUPATI

ISRO chairman V. Narayanan visited the Tirupati temple on Monday to offer prayers ahead of the upcoming BlueBird Block-2 mission scheduled for December 24. The mission will use the LVM3-M6 launch vehicle to deploy the BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite, a project of the US-based AST SpaceMobile.

Narayanan was accompanied by ISRO officials and carried a miniature replica of the launch rocket while performing the rituals, he said the mission will lift the heaviest satellite ever launched from Indian soil. "On 24 December, we are targeting the launch of BlueBird-2 using our Bahubali M6 rocket," he stated.

The BlueBird Block-2 satellite is designed to support 4G and 5G communication services. ISRO officials said the mission marks a major milestone in India's commercial space efforts, demonstrating the country's capability to launch heavy satellites and expand global communication infrastructure.

Preparations for the mission have been ongoing for several months, including rigorous testing of the LVM3-M6 rocket and satellite systems. The launch is expected to strengthen India's position in international space services and commercial satellite deployment.

Kerala Court probes alleged fake voter enrolment

THRISSUR

A Thrissur Judicial First Class Magistrate Court on Monday issued notice to a Booth-Level Officer (BLO) in connection with allegations of illegal voter enrolment involving Union Minister Suresh Gopi. The action follows a complaint by senior Congress leader and former MP T.N. Prathapan, who alleged criminal conspiracy in adding votes during the last Lok Sabha elections.

The complaint claims that Suresh Gopi, his brother Subhash Gopi, and other family members were enrolled as voters at Mukkatukara polling booth despite not meeting eligibility requirements. It alleges that fabricated documents were used in collusion with the BLO, undermining the integrity of the electoral process.

The court, after finding prima facie grounds, directed the concerned BLO to appear in person on January 20 to respond to the allegations. While examining the plea, the court noted that Suresh Gopi was not a public servant at the time of the alleged offence, so statutory notices applicable to public servants were unnecessary.

The case highlights growing scrutiny of electoral rolls in Kerala, especially during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision exercises. Observers note that this judicial intervention reflects efforts to ensure transparency and accountability in voter enrolment procedures.

The court's notice focuses on verifying the role of the BLO in processing voter enrolments and addressing claims of irregularities. Authorities and political observers are closely watching the case, as it comes amid heightened attention to voter data integrity and procedural compliance across the state.

This development underscores the legal mechanisms in place to investigate potential electoral irregularities and reinforces the importance of maintaining credible voter lists in democratic processes.

Nitish Kumar meets PM, discuss Bihar development

NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday at his official residence in New Delhi, along with Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary and Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan Singh). The meeting focused on Bihar's development agenda, coordination with the Centre, and key political issues.

Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary highlighted on social media that the meeting provided valuable guidance for Bihar's growth and aligned with PM Modi's vision of national progress. Sources said discussions covered ongoing and upcoming development projects, including education, healthcare, rural development, and employment generation.

Nitish Kumar reportedly presented his vision for transforming Bihar into a developed state, seeking support from the Union government for recently launched and proposed schemes. The interaction is seen as vital for strengthening Centre-state cooperation and paving the way for new initiatives.

The meeting also carried political significance as it marked Nitish Kumar's first interaction with the Central leadership after NDA's decisive win in the Bihar Assembly elections. Leaders deliberated on the current political situation, administrative coordination, and upcoming policy initiatives for the state.

Earlier in the day, Nitish Kumar also met Union Home Minister Amit Shah for nearly an hour to discuss administrative and political matters. Officials said these meetings underscore the importance of Centre-state collaboration for governance and development.

Stalin mocks AIADMK over electoral roll deletion

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on December 21 criticised the AIADMK and the BJP, alleging attempts to suppress votes in the state through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Addressing a Christmas event in Chennai, he claimed the SIR was a "shortcut" by the BJP to remove votes of minorities, women, and marginalised groups that usually support the DMK.

Udhayanidhi mocked the main opposition party, saying, "AIADMK has become Amit Shah Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam," pointing out its alignment with the BJP under leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami. He added that while the BJP promises protection for minorities, the opposition party should focus on safeguarding itself from central influence.

Highlighting the impact of the SIR exercise, Udhayanidhi stated that approximately 97 lakh voters have been removed from Tamil Nadu's rolls, including about 14 lakh in Chennai. He urged citizens to check their names on the electoral list and said DMK representatives would assist people in submitting forms to restore their voter details, with a deadline of January 18.

He also reiterated concerns over the New Education Policy, alleging that the BJP-led Centre aims to impose Hindi in Tamil Nadu, despite financial incentives offered to the state.

Police likely to close drug case against Shine Tom

KOCHI

Police are expected to drop a drug case against Malayalam actor Shine Tom Chacko, after a chemical analysis found no traces of narcotics in his blood or hair samples, officials said on Monday.

The case dates back to April, when the District Anti-Narcotic Special Action Force (DANSAF) raided a hotel in Kochi following a tip-off. Chacko allegedly fled the hotel upon seeing police. Ahmmed Murshad of Malappuram, who was reportedly with him, was detained, and a case was registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

A few days later, Chacko voluntarily appeared before the police and provided blood and hair samples for testing. According to an officer from Ernakulam North police station, "No traces of drugs or narcotic substances were found in the samples. Hence, it would be difficult to proceed further with the investigation."

The case had also invoked Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Section 238 (causing disappearance of evidence) and NDPS Act Sections 27(b) and 29, covering drug consumption and criminal conspiracy. However, police said the absence of scientific evidence makes it hard to substantiate these charges.

SURYODAY SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED
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Under Section 13 (2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Whereas the undersigned is the Authorized officer of the M/s. Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd. ("SSFBL") under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) to discharge in full their liability to the Company by making payment of entire outstanding including up to date interest, cost and charges within 60 days from the date of respective Notices issued and the publication of the Notice as given below as and way of alternate service upon you. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset (s) have been mortgaged to SSFBL by the said Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) respectively.

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 237000001150 1) MR. KRISHNAMURTHY S S/O SHIVAJIPPA 2) GEETA P K W/O KRISHNAMURHTY P S PAVAN KUMAR P K S/O KRISHNAMURTHY	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 3,38,347/- as on 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF BEARING PROPERTY PLOT NO.673, SY NO:910/A, ASSESMENT NO I/SY NO: 910/APLT NO 673, WRD NO 4, FORM NO: 3, UNIQUE NO: 4-5-552-543, MEASURING EAST TO WEST=6.09 mtr, NORTH TO SOUTH=9.144 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=55.74 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT RANEBENNUR TOWN, RANEBENNUR TOWN PANCYATH, RANEBENNUR TALLUK, RANEBENNUR DISTRICT KARNATAKA. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: SITE NO 674, WEST BY: SITE NO.672, NORTH BY: SITE NO.668 SOUTH BY: ROAD		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 249000128158 1) MR. KUMAR S/O MADASETTY 2) MRS. BHAVANI W/O KRISHNA SETTY	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 5,40,651/-AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEARING PROPERTY NO.100/2, E-SWATHU, UNIQUE NO.150800203600300177 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=8.077 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH= 7.315 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=59.09 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT HIREBEGURU VILLAGE, KULAGANA GRAMAPANCHAYATH CHAMARAJANAGARA TALLUK, CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT KARNATAKA.BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: STREET, WEST BY: HOUSE OF CHANNASHETTY, NORTH BY: HOUSE OF SAMPASETTY SOUTH BY: HOUSE OF CHIKKASIDDASETTY		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 249000116452 1) MRS. LAKSHMAMMA W/O RACHAIAH 2) MR. KUMARA S/O RACHAIAH	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs.4,37,297/-AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY ALL THE PEACE AND PARCEL OFRESIDENTIAL HOUSE BEARING PROPERTY NO.16/Ni/24, FORM NO.9, UNIQUE NO.150800300300120344 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=9.144 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=12.192 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=111.48 BUILD UP AREA 51.10 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT KUNAGALLI VILLAGE, KUNAGALLI GRAMAPANCHAYATH KOLLEGALA TALLUK, CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT KARNATAKA. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: SITE NO.23 WEST BY: ROAD NORTH BY: SITE NO.37 SOUTH BY: ROAD		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	29-10-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO.227000002803 1) MR. NAGENDRA S/O SRINIVASAMURTHY 2) MRS. SUNDRI W/O NAGENDRA	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs.5,47,257/- AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEARING PROPERTY NO.708/678, WARD NO.19, NAMUNE-3, E-AASTHI PID NO.19- 2-506-87B, MEASURING EAST TO WEST=3.962408 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=6.705613 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=26.570258 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT NO.87B#T, 1ST CROSS, BLOCK-2, WARD NO.19, CHAMARAJANAGARA TOWN KARNATAKA BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: ROAD WEST BY: 19-2-506-87B NORTH BY: 19-2-506-87 SOUTH BY: 19-2-506-89B		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 239000003125 1) MR.RAMACHANDRA B.P. S/O PUTTA ARASAIAH 2) MRS. SIDDAGANGAMMA W/O B.P.RAMACHANDRAMMA	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs.4,46,797/-AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEARING PROPERTY NO.109, FORM-NO.9, UNIQUE NO.152500300201200109 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=5.4864 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=10.9728 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=60.20 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT NEGILALA VILLAGE, BUYDAGAVI GRAMAPANCHAYATH KORATAGERE HOBLI, TUMAKURU DISTRICT KARNATAKA BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: VACANT PROPERTY BOMMANNA WEST BY: SITE BY N.C.SHIVANANDAIAH NORTH BY: ROAD SOUTH BY: ROAD		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000066211 1) MR.NAGENDRA S/O MAHADEVANAYAKA 2) MRS. MAHADEVAMMA W/O MAHADEVANAYAKA	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs.503981/-AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEARING PROPERTY NO.511, 11A KHATA, UNIQUE NO.150800100600400500 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=9.144 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=12.192 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=111.48 SQ.MTRS, SITUATED AT BADANAGUPPE GRAMAPANCHAYATH, CHAMARAJANAGARA TALLUK, CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT KARNATAKA BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: PROPERTY BELONGS TO JAVARANAYAKA WEST BY: PROPERTY KOTHIMADANAYAKA NORTH BY: PROPERTY BELONGS TO KENCHANAYAKA SOUTH BY: ROAD		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000022341 1) MRS. NAGENDRA S S/O SIDDARAJU A 2) MRS.CHANDRAMMA W/O SIDDARAJU. 3) MRS. SIDDARAJU S/O SIDDAIAH	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 3,78,232/-AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY BEARING PROPERTY NO.248, FORM NO.11B, UNIQUE NO.152100405300400250 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=6.705 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=12.19 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=81.75 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT DODDAKETTAGERE VILLAGE, CHANDAGALU(B) GRAMAPANCHAYATH MANDYA TALLUK, MANDYA DISTRICT KARNATAKA. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: OPEN SPACE AND ROAD WEST BY: ROAD NORTH BY: OPEN SPACE SOUTH BY: OPEN SPACE AND ANGANWADI KENDRA		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	29-10-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 249000071108 1) MRS. SUNDRAMMA W/O RAMAIAH 2) MRS.RAMAIAH S/O LATE KARIAIAH	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 2,92,403/-AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTYBEARING OLD PROPERTY NO.196/1, UNIQUE NO.152200606156000778, MEASURING EAST TO WEST=12.19 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=9.14 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=111.41 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT RAVANUDURU VILLAGE, PERIRYPATTANA TALLUKU, MYSURU DISTRICT. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: SMALL OF VASU WEST BY: ROAD NORTH BY: HOUSE NO-7 SOUTH BY: HOUSE OF RAMESHA		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	29-10-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000087001 1) MRS. Y.M.RADHA W/O MAHESH 2) MR. MAHESH S/O LATE PUTTASWAMY	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 5,33,408/-AS ON 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTYBEARING OLD PROPERTY NO.232, UNIQUE NO.150800102800600357, MEASURING EAST TO WEST=12.192 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=9.7536 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=118.92 SQ. MTR. SITUATED AT NAVILURU VILLAGE CHAMARAJANAGARA TALUK CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT:- 571124 BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: HOUSE OF BASAVEGOWDA WEST BY: ROAD NORTH BY: HOUSE OF MALLEGOWDA SOUTH BY: HOUSE OF NINGAMMA		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 237000001150 1) MR. BASAVARAJU N S/O NAGARAJU 2) MR. NAGARAJU S/O DEVEGOWDA. 3) SMT. RATHNAMMA W/O NAGARAJU	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 4,27,890/- as on 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OFBEARING PROPERTY NO.1024, FORM NO.9, UNIQUE NO.150800400500120287 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=9.75 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=4.50 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=18.58 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT YEALADURGA VILLAGE, GUMBALLI GRAMAPANCHAYATH CHAMARAJANAGARA TALLUK, CHAMARAJANAGARA DISTRICT KARNATAKA. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: ROAD WEST BY: SITE FOR THIMMEGOWDA NORTH BY: SITE FOR KULLEGOWDA SOUTH BY: HOUSE BELONGS TO RAJESH		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000032737 1) MRS. PARVATHAMMA W/O GOVINDAIAH 2) MR. GOVINDAIAH S K S/O LATE SANNA KARENAIK.	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 5,03,598/-as on 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF BEARING PROPERTY NO.276, FORM NO.11B, UNIQUE NO.152500101000200410 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=15.544 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=19.81 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=307.97 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT SORALAMAVU VILLAGE, CHOWLAKATTE GRAMAPANCHAYATH CHIKKANAYAKANAHALLI TALLUK, TUMKUR DISTRICT KARNATAKA. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: GALLI WEST BY: ROAD NORTH BY: PANCHAYATH SISTAN AND ROAD SOUTH BY: GALLI AND HOUSE OF LAKSHMAIAH		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 237000000200 1) RAVIKUMAR M.R. S/O RAMEGOWDA 2) RAMEGOWDA S/O LATE ELLEGOWDA 3) SAKAMMA W/O RAMEGOWDA	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs.5,15,650/-as on 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF BEARING JANJAR NO.200 PROPERTY NO.595/2, 11B KHATA, UNIQUE NO.152200601416500964, MEASURING EAST TO WEST=23.78 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=13.71 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=326.02 SQ.MTRS, BUILDING MEASURING=219.80 SITUATED AT MAKODU VILLAGE, MAKODU GRAMAPANCHAYATH, PERIYAPATTANA TALLUK, MYSURU DISTRICT KARNATAKA. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: GOVERNAMENT ROAD WEST BY: PROPERTY BELONGS TO SANNA NORTH BY: BYARAN MANGRI DASEGOWDA SOUTH BY: PROPERTY BELONGS TO RATHNAMMA		

Name of Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	03-11-2025
LOAN ACCOUNT NO. 259000131126 1) MR. K R SHIVASHANKARA S/O RAJEGOWDA 2) MRS. GOWRAMMA W/O RAJEGOWDA 3) MR. RAJEGOWDA S/O BASAVEGOWDA	Date of NPA	08-10-2025
	Total Outstanding Amount in Rs.	Rs. 5,33,414/-as on 15-10-2025
DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET(S) /IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES): ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF BEARING PROPERTY NO.302,PROPERTY NO:313, FORM NO.11B, UNIQUE NO.151600501200200432 MEASURING EAST TO WEST=5.79 MTR, NORTH TO SOUTH=9.75 MTR, TOTAL EXTENT=56.48 SQ MTRS SITUATED AT KAREHALLI VILLAGE, KAREHALLI GRAMAPANCHAYATH CHANNARAYAPATTANA TALLUK, HASANA DISTRICT KARNATAKA. BOUNDARIES HERE UNDER:- EAST BY: LAND OF MANJUNATH WEST BY: HOUSE OF SHANKAREGOWDA NORTH BY: ANATI ROAD SOUTH BY: LAND OF SHANKAREGOWDA		

If the said Borrower, Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) fails to make payment to SSFBL as aforesaid, SSFBL shall be entitled to take possession of the secured asset mentioned above and shall take such other actions as is available to the Company in law, entirely at the risks, cost and consequences of the borrowers.
The said Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) are prohibited under the provision of sub section (13) of section 13 of SARFAESI Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise referred to in the notice without prior consent of SSFBL.

Place: Karnataka Date: 20-12-2025 **Sd/- Authorized Officer, For Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited**

QUICK READ

Sweden releases Russian freighter after customs inspection

Stockholm

Swedish customs released the Russian freighter Adler after inspecting the vessel, which had anchored near Hoganas due to engine trouble. Authorities boarded the ship over the weekend to check compliance with regulations. Prosecutors decided not to investigate possible sanctions violations, allowing the freighter to continue its journey north along Sweden's west coast. Adler and its owners, M Leasing LLC, are on European Union and U.S. sanctions lists for suspected weapons transport, though cargo details remain undisclosed. The ship had departed St. Petersburg on December 15 for an unknown destination.

South Korea lawmaker questioned over luxury gift

Seoul

Representative Kim Gi-hyeon of South Korea's opposition People Power Party appeared before a special counsel investigating bribery allegations involving former first lady Kim Keon Hee. Kim was questioned about a Roger Vivier clutch bag worth 2.6 million won, reportedly delivered by his wife in 2023. Authorities suspect the gift was linked to support from Unification Church members for Kim's party leadership bid. The lawmaker admitted the gift but denied wrongdoing. The probe, led by special counsel Min Joong-ki, also questioned former PPP leader Lee Jun-seok about election meddling and alleged collusion involving former President Yoon and the former first lady.

PTI workers protest Khan sentencing nationwide

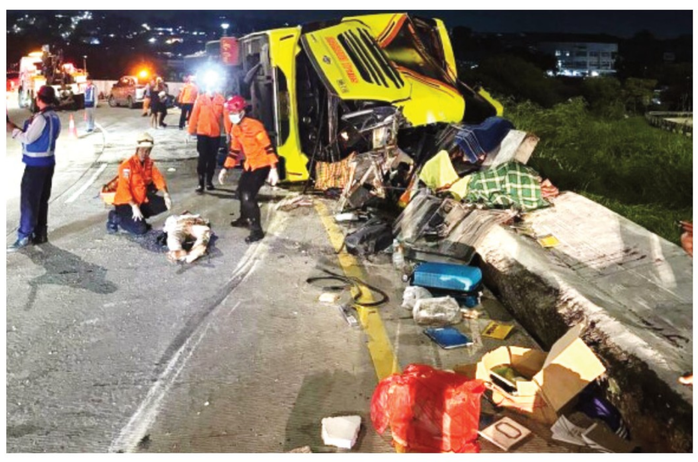
Islamabad

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters staged rallies across Pakistan after courts sentenced party founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi to 17 years in the Toshakhana-II case. Protesters waved flags, chanted slogans, and criticized the federal government and judiciary. PTI leaders called the verdict baseless and urged street protests, while Khan plans to challenge the ruling in Islamabad High Court. Over 1,300 police and security personnel, including Elite Force and anti-riot units, were deployed in Rawalpindi to maintain order.

Bus crash kills 16 on Indonesia's Java Island

A Jakarta office fire killed 22, spreading quickly; firefighters controlled it after 3 hrs with extensive personnel and engines

JAKARTA



At least 16 people were killed when a passenger bus lost control and crashed on Indonesia's main island of Java shortly after midnight on Monday, officials said. The inter-provincial bus, carrying 34 passengers, was travelling from the capital, Jakarta, to the historic city of Yogyakarta when it hit a concrete barrier and overturned.

Budiono, chief of the local search and rescue agency, said several other victims were rushed to Semarang city for medical treatment. He confirmed that authorities were investigating the cause of the accident.

Transport accidents are common in Indonesia, where many vehicles are old, poorly maintained, and traffic rules are frequently ignored. In 2024, a collision between a car and a bus on a busy highway claimed 12 lives during the Eid al-Fitr holiday. Earlier, in 2019, a bus crash in western Sumatra killed at least 35 people when the vehicle fell into a ravine.

The latest tragedy comes just two weeks after a fire tore through a seven-storey office building in Jakarta, killing at least 22 people. The blaze, which started on the building's first floor in the Kemayoran area, spread rapidly, sending black smoke into the sky and causing panic among workers and nearby residents. Firefighters, aided by hundreds of personnel and 29 fire engines, managed to extinguish the fire after three hours.

Most victims in that incident died from smoke inhalation, while firefighters rescued 19 people with minor injuries. The repeated accidents highlight persistent safety concerns in Indonesia's transport and urban infrastructure.

Russian General killed in Moscow car bomb

The killing occurs amid ongoing Russia-Ukraine peace talks, described as "constructive" by Kremlin and "quick" by Zelenskyy

MOSCOW

Lieutenant General Fanil Sarvarov, a senior Russian military officer, was killed on Monday when a car bomb exploded in Moscow, authorities confirmed. Sarvarov led the army's operational training directorate under the Russian General Staff and died instantly in the blast.

Russia's Investigative Committee said multiple scenarios are being considered, including the potential involvement of Ukrainian special services in planting the explosive device. Investigators have not provided further details, but the incident has sparked concerns about security for high-ranking officials in the capital.

The killing comes amid ongoing diplomatic efforts to end the nearly four-year conflict between Russia and Ukraine. A Kremlin spokesperson said talks over a U.S.-backed proposal in Florida are progressing in a "constructive" manner, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the process as moving "quickly."

Despite diplomatic progress, violence continues in Ukraine. A recent Russian missile strike on port facilities in Odesa killed eight people and injured 27, according to Ukraine's emergency services. The incident highlights the ongoing volatility in the region, even as negotiations continue.

Sarvarov's death is likely to heighten tensions and may influence Russia's military and political response. Analysts note that the targeting of senior officials represents a significant escalation, raising questions about internal security measures in Moscow.

The attack underscores the persistent risks faced by military leaders during the conflict and adds urgency to diplomatic and security discussions between the two nations. As investigations continue, global attention remains focused on the implications for Russia-Ukraine relations.

China condemns US seizure of Venezuela-bound tanker

BEIJING

China strongly criticized the United States on Monday after a U.S. Coast Guard intercepted a China-bound oil tanker off Venezuela's coast, calling the action a serious violation of international law.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Lin Jian, said Venezuela has the right to develop relations with other countries and reaffirmed China's opposition to all "unilateral and illegal" sanctions. The tanker, named Centuries, was carrying about 1.8 million barrels of Venezuelan Merey crude oil and had been loaded under the false name Crag. Documents revealed that the oil was purchased through intermediaries by Satau Tijana Oil Trading for delivery to Chinese refiners.

The interception followed U.S. President Donald Trump's recent announcement of a "blockade" targeting all sanctioned oil tankers entering or leaving Venezuela. A White House spokesperson described the vessel as "falsely flagged" and part of Venezuela's shadow fleet.

Venezuela condemned the interception, calling it a "serious act of international piracy." China is Venezuela's largest crude buyer, with imports from the country making up roughly 4% of its total oil purchases.

South Korea expands welfare for senior citizens

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Monday promised to expand welfare support for the country's senior citizens, recognising their contributions to economic growth and democracy. The announcement came during a luncheon with representatives of the Korean Senior Citizens' Association.

Lee highlighted that South Korea has officially entered a "super-aged society" this year, with over 20 per cent of the population aged 65 and above. "Policies for older adults are no longer just about seniors. They're policies for everyone," he said, stressing the government's commitment to ensuring seniors enjoy healthy and dignified lives.

He outlined plans to launch a nationwide, customised care system integrating medical, nursing, and caregiving services starting in March. Basic pension payments will also rise, and senior employment programs will be expanded to help older citizens remain active and socially engaged.

Additionally, the government intends to gradually extend National Health Insurance coverage to include caregiving costs at nursing homes. "We will strengthen the welfare safety net while helping seniors put their experience and wisdom to use as valuable social assets," Lee added.

During the meeting, Lee thanked older citizens for their dedication in transforming South Korea from a war-torn country after the 1950-53 Korean War into a modern economic powerhouse and vibrant democracy. He also noted that this year marks a "watershed" as the nation overcame a democratic crisis following former President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed martial law attempt.

Lee emphasised that South Korea's achievements in politics, culture, and economy are built on seniors' sacrifices. "You walked with us through industrialisation and democratisation, and we are deeply grateful for your hard work," he said, underlining the government's pledge to provide stronger support and respect for the elderly population.

Albanese's cabinet approved a 2026 legislative package to strengthen hate speech penalties

Australian PM condemns attack, apologises to Jewish community

CANBERRA

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Monday apologised to the nation's Jewish community following the deadly mass shooting at Bondi Beach. The attack, which occurred on December 14 during a Hanukkah celebration in Sydney, claimed 15 lives and shocked the country.

At a press conference in Canberra, Albanese expressed his sorrow, saying, "I'm sorry for what the Jewish community and our nation as a whole have experienced." He added that the government feels the "weight of responsibility" to protect Jewish Australians and prevent terrorists from dividing society. The attack was inspired by the Islamic State.

Albanese announced that his cabinet, which met for the second time since the tragedy, has approved a legislative package to combat hate speech. The proposed laws, to be introduced in 2026, aim to strengthen penalties for hate speech, make hate motivation a factor in sentencing, and give the Home Affairs Minister the power to cancel visas for people promoting violence or displaying hate symbols.

The legislation will also introduce a new aggravated criminal offence for adults who try to radicalise children. Attorney-General Michelle Rowland highlighted the growing threat of youth radicalisation, noting that out of 33 people currently facing terrorism charges in Australia, 17 are minors. She stressed, "This unprecedented radicalisation of our youth must stop. We will not allow extremists to groom and brainwash our children into hate or terrorism."

Albanese confirmed that the government will consult across all federal parties to ensure that the laws are passed quickly and effectively. He emphasised that the new measures are intended to safeguard communities, prevent future attacks, and send a strong message that Australia will not tolerate hate or violence.

The Prime Minister's statement and the legislative push come amid heightened concern about domestic terrorism and the influence of extremist ideologies, reflecting a firm government response to a tragic event that has deeply affected the nation.

Vance supports H-1B curbs on tech firms

PHOENIX

U.S. Vice President JD Vance voiced support for tightening H-1B visa rules, criticizing companies for bypassing American workers in favor of cheaper foreign labour. Speaking at the AmericaFest convention of Turning Point USA in Phoenix, Vance argued that firms should prioritize domestic employment over hiring cheaper international talent.

"True Christian politics must include the dignity of work," Vance said. "We penalize corporations that ship American jobs overseas because every person deserves a good job here." He highlighted efforts by the administration to restrict H-1B visas without Congress, saying, "It is wrong for companies to bypass American labour just to go for cheaper options in the third world."

Earlier this year, former President Donald Trump imposed a $100,000 fee for new H-1B applications as part of a broader immigration crackdown. The H-1B program is widely used by U.S. tech companies to hire skilled foreign workers, with India being the largest source of talent.

The visa restrictions have created challenges for technology firms. Alphabet's Google and Apple recently warned some employees on U.S. work visas to avoid international travel due to embassy delays for visa stamping, which could last up to 12 months.

Japan set to restart largest nuclear plant

NIIGATA

Japan is preparing to restart the world's largest nuclear power plant, Kashiwazaki-Kariwa, nearly 15 years after the Fukushima disaster. On Monday, lawmakers in Niigata prefecture will vote on resuming operations at the plant, marking a key step in Japan's push to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Kashiwazaki-Kariwa, located about 220 km northwest of Tokyo, was one of 54 reactors shut after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami devastated the Fukushima Daiichi plant. TEPCO, which operated Fukushima, will manage the restart. If approved, the first of seven reactors could resume operations on January 20, boosting electricity supply to Tokyo by about 2%, officials said.

Despite government assurances, many locals remain wary. Around 300 protesters gathered outside the Niigata assembly, holding banners saying "No Nukes" and "Support Fukushima." Ayako Oga, a former Fukushima evacuee, voiced fears of repeating the past disaster. TEPCO pledged 100 billion yen ($641 million) to the prefecture over the next decade to secure support, yet surveys show most residents remain concerned about safety.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has backed the restart to strengthen energy security and counter high fossil fuel costs.

SUDOKU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

3		2	6		1		5	
	4		3	2			9	1
1		7		9		3		
	5			7	6		3	
7		8	9	5		6		4
6		1		4			7	
	1			6			8	
	7		8		4		6	
8		5	7		9	1		2

7	6	8	2	5	1	9	3	4
1	4	9	7	6	3	2	5	8
3	5	2	9	4	8	6	1	7
6	3	5	4	8	9	1	7	2
8	2	1	6	7	5	3	4	9
4	9	7	3	2	1	8	6	5
5	8	3	1	9	7	4	2	6
9	1	6	5	2	4	7	8	3
2	7	4	8	3	6	5	9	1

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

NORTHERN NIGERIA RELIEF

Freed Nigerian children to reunite with families

MINNA

The final group of 130 Nigerian schoolchildren freed by authorities on Sunday are set to reunite with their families in Niger State on Monday, ending a month-long ordeal that drew global attention.

The children were among over 300 students and 12 staff abducted from St. Mary's Catholic School in Papiri, a remote hamlet seven hours from the state capital Minna, on November 21. This kidnapping was among the worst in recent years, raising concerns about worsening insecurity in northern Nigeria, where armed gangs frequently target schools for ransom.

Earlier, 100 students were released on December 8, and 50 pupils escaped shortly after the initial abduction. President Bola Tinubu's office said the children would be brought to Minna on Monday to meet relatives in time for Christmas celebrations.

Presidency spokesperson Bayo Onanuga said the latest release followed a "military-intelligence-driven operation," without revealing further details. It remains unclear whether the children were freed through a security raid, negotiations, or ransom payments. Information about the kidnapped staff was not provided.

The Catholic Diocese of Kontagora thanked federal and state authorities, security agencies, and humanitarian partners for securing the children's freedom. "We are profoundly grateful… for their efforts and interventions," said Rev. Fr. Jatau Luka Joseph.

Mass kidnappings for ransom have become a grim reality in northern and central Nigeria, where armed gangs exploit weak security and vast rural areas. The phenomenon gained international attention after Boko Haram abducted 276 girls from Chibok in 2014. U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened military action, accusing Nigeria of mistreating Christians, while the government maintains that armed groups target both Muslims and Christians.

The safe return of the students offers relief to families and highlights ongoing challenges in curbing school abductions in the region.

QUICK READ

Hyundai Unveils AI Robotics Strategy, Atlas Robot

Seoul

Hyundai Motor Group announced it will reveal its AI robotics plan and debut a humanoid robot, Atlas, at CES 2026 in Las Vegas. The keynote on Jan. 5 will showcase AI technologies, human-robot teamwork, and a company-wide robotics ecosystem. Atlas will demonstrate real-world applications of Hyundai's AI robotics. The company also shared plans for a software-driven factory to combine robots and manufacturing. Separately, Hyundai is building a 111,000-square-meter battery R&D center in Anseong, South Korea, costing 1.2 trillion won. It aims to advance electric vehicle technology and become a global leader in battery research and innovation.

Neptune Logitek IPO lists with heavy losses

Mumbai

Neptune Logitek shares made a weak debut on BSE SME, opening at Rs 100, 26% below the IPO price of Rs 126. Selling pressure pushed the stock further down to Rs 95.80, causing investors to lose nearly Rs 30,200 per 1,000-share lot. The IPO, fully subscribed 1.61 times, raised Rs 46.62 crore for trucks, equipment, debt repayment, and corporate use. The company provides logistics services including freight forwarding, customs clearance, air cargo, and multimodal transport. Its asset-heavy model relies on owned trucks, maintenance facilities, and fuel setup. Market sentiment turned negative following the disappointing listing.

India New Zealand FTA promises zero duty exports

The minister noted the FTA will drive $20 billion New Zealand investment in India, focusing on manufacturing, infrastructure, services, innovation, and jobs

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday that the India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement will ensure zero duty on 100 per cent of India's exports, bringing wide benefits across multiple sectors of the economy.

Goyal said the agreement will strongly support farmers, MSMEs, workers, artisans, women-led enterprises and young entrepreneurs. Labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, apparel, leather and footwear are expected to gain significantly, along with engineering, automobiles, electronics, machinery, pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

The minister also highlighted that the FTA will boost investment flows, with New Zealand committing to facilitate nearly 20 billion dollars of foreign direct investment into India over the next 15 years. The investment focus will be on manufacturing, infrastructure, services, innovation and job creation.

Sharing details on social media, Goyal said the agreement was concluded in a record nine months under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon. He described the deal as a major milestone in strengthening bilateral relations.

The FTA opens new market access for Indian agricultural products such as fruits, vegetables, coffee, spices, cereals and processed foods. Through partnerships in agricultural productivity, centres of excellence and access to advanced New Zealand technologies, Indian farmers are expected to benefit from better yields, improved quality and higher incomes.

At the same time, India has protected sensitive sectors. Products such as dairy, sugar, edible oils, precious metals, rubber goods and certain agricultural items have been safeguarded to protect domestic industries and farmers.

The agreement also creates fresh opportunities for India's services sector, including IT, finance, education, tourism and healthcare. Special provisions on student mobility, post-study work and temporary employment visas will help Indian professionals and students access global opportunities.

Goyal said the FTA will deepen economic ties and support India's long-term vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Electronics sector boosts jobs for indian women: Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI

The minister highlighted Foxconn's Bengaluru iPhone facility hiring nearly 30,000 employees in under nine months, 80% women, many joining the formal workforce for the first time

The electronics sector in India is creating large-scale blue-collar jobs for women, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Monday, highlighting a major shift in the country's manufacturing landscape.

The minister referred to recent reports on Taiwan-based Foxconn, which has hired nearly 30,000 employees at its new iPhone assembly facility in Bengaluru within just eight to nine months. Around 80 per cent of these workers are women, many of whom are entering the formal workforce for the first time.

In a post on social media platform X, Vaishnaw said a women-led mega factory would have been unthinkable a decade ago. He added that the electronics sector is now creating skilled blue-collar jobs, especially for women, while also supporting technology transfer, empowerment and better living standards.

Foxconn's new facility is located in Devanahalli near Bengaluru. Most of the women employed at the plant are between 19 and 24 years old. By next year, the workforce at the factory is expected to grow to nearly 50,000 employees, making it one of the largest employment hubs in the sector.

Trial production at the plant began earlier this year with the iPhone 16. The facility is currently assembling the latest iPhone 17 Pro Max models, with more than 80 per cent of production meant for export markets.

Foxconn is investing around Rs 20,000 crore in the Bengaluru project. Spread across nearly 250,000 square feet, the facility will become the company's largest manufacturing unit in India in terms of both production capacity and employment.

The new plant is also expected to surpass Foxconn's older iPhone factory in Tamil Nadu, which employs about 41,000 workers. In October, Foxconn announced an additional Rs 15,000 crore investment in Tamil Nadu, creating 14,000 high-value jobs.

With operations in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Telangana, Foxconn's expansion reflects India's growing role as a global electronics manufacturing hub and highlights new employment opportunities for women across the country.

German car exports fall sharply to U.S.

BERLIN

German car exports to the United States dropped almost 14% in the first nine months of 2025, showing how trade tensions continue to hit Europe's auto industry. A new study says this makes the car sector the hardest hit by U.S. tariffs introduced during Donald Trump's administration.

Under a deal between Washington and Brussels, the U.S. set a 15% tariff on European cars from August 1. This is lower than the earlier proposed 25% tariff but still affects German exports. The study also showed that German engineering exports fell 9.5% during the same period. Machinery and chemical exports to the U.S. also declined, partly because of high tariffs on steel and aluminum and rising energy costs in Germany.

Overall, German exports to the U.S. went down 7.8% compared to last year. Between 2016 and 2024, German exports to the U.S. had been growing around 5% annually.

The report warned that CPI and GDP base-year revisions in February 2026 may prompt MPC to act cautiously

RBI may cut repo rate

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India may reduce the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 5 per cent in its upcoming Monetary Policy Committee meeting in February, according to a new report by Union Bank of India.

The report said the central bank's recent dovish signals, along with repeated references to comfortable inflation levels, suggest room for one final rate cut. The bank noted that the reduction could come either in February or April 2026, though predicting the exact timing remains difficult.

Union Bank of India pointed out that inflation pressures appear subdued. When adjusted for around 50 basis points contributed by gold prices, underlying inflation looks even more moderate. This gives the RBI space to consider easing rates further to support growth.

However, the report also flagged uncertainty due to upcoming revisions in the base year for Consumer Price Index and Gross Domestic Product data, expected in February 2026. These changes may prompt the MPC to adopt a cautious approach and wait for clearer signals before making further policy moves.

The RBI cut the repo rate by 25 basis points in December, bringing it down to 5.25 per cent. The next MPC meeting is scheduled to take place from February 4 to 6, 2026, where the rate decision will be closely watched by markets.

The central bank has revised India's growth forecast for FY26 to 7.3 per cent. It expects domestic demand to improve due to income tax changes, easing monetary policy and continued GST-related reforms from the fiscal side.

Meanwhile, a separate report by Yes Bank cautioned that a new CPI series with lower weightage for food items could reduce the comfort gained from falling food prices. This may limit the scope for further rate cuts unless economic growth weakens sharply.

The RBI is expected to continue ensuring comfortable liquidity conditions while keeping the operative interest rate aligned closely with the repo rate.

Deccan Gold Mines begins Kyrgyzstan production trials

NEW DELHI

Deccan Gold Mines Ltd has started initial production trials at its gold mining project in Kyrgyzstan. The pre-commissioning phase will process around 20,000–30,000 tonnes of ore. Gold recovered during these trials will be made into saleable concentrate or dore bars, helping the company test and validate its production process. This step marks a key milestone before full-scale operations begin. The successful trials are expected to provide insights into efficiency and yield, setting the stage for progressive commissioning. The move reflects Deccan Gold Mines' commitment to expanding gold and critical mineral production internationally.

Institutional investments set new real estate records

MUMBAI

Institutional investments in Indian real estate are expected to cross 10 billion dollars in 2025, setting a fresh record for the second year in a row, according to a new JLL report. The report estimates investments of about 10.4 billion dollars through 77 transactions, a strong 17 per cent rise compared to 8.9 billion dollars recorded last year.

The study also highlighted large platform commitments worth 11.43 billion dollars in 2025. These funds are expected to be invested gradually over the next three to seven years, showing long-term confidence in the sector.

For the first time since 2014, domestic institutional investors have taken the lead, accounting for 52 per cent of the total investment market. This shift shows growing trust among Indian investors in stable, income-generating assets. Core asset purchases also doubled during the year, reflecting a clear move towards long-term wealth creation.

Real Estate Investment Trusts and Infrastructure Investment Trusts played a major role, deploying around 2.5 billion dollars, which made up more than half of core asset investments. Indian private equity firms added further strength, contributing nearly 30 per cent of domestic capital.

Foreign investor participation declined slightly in share, but actual foreign investments rose by 18 per cent year-on-year. Investors from the Americas showed strong interest, increasing their investments sharply compared to last year.

The office segment regained its top position, attracting 58 per cent of total institutional investments in 2025. Bengaluru emerged as the leading city, drawing 29 per cent of total investments. Tier 2 cities also saw some activity, receiving 175 million dollars.

Experts said the trend confirms renewed faith in India's real estate growth story and long-term stability.

India capital market infrastructure sees strong revenue growth

NEW DELHI

India's capital market infrastructure sector recorded revenues of over Rs 700 billion in the financial year 2024–25, driven by rising market activity and growing investor participation, according to a report by global brokerage Jefferies. The sector includes stock brokers, exchanges, depositories and registry and transfer agents, all of which benefited from higher trading volumes and a broader investor base.

The report said the sector's future growth will depend on faster expansion in select segments, entry into related businesses and the ability to adapt to regulatory changes. Mutual funds are expected to play a key role in this growth story. Jefferies projects mutual fund assets under management to grow at a strong annual pace of 16 per cent between FY26 and FY28, increasing from Rs 67 trillion in FY25 to Rs 103 trillion by FY28.

Trading activity is also expected to remain healthy. Cash market average daily turnover is projected to rise by 15 per cent, while futures and options premium turnover may grow by 12 per cent. This reflects some moderation in derivatives trading after recent regulatory steps.

Investor participation is set to expand sharply. The number of demat accounts is forecast to rise from 192 million in FY25 to 304 million by FY28. Mutual fund folios are also expected to grow significantly, from 235 million to 377 million during the same period.

In FY25, brokers generated nearly Rs 500 billion in revenue, while stock exchanges contributed around Rs 200 billion. Depositories and transfer agents accounted for the remaining share.

Asian shares rise, Yen weakens as bonds falter

SYDNEY

Asian shares rose on Monday, tracking tech-driven gains on Wall Street, while the yen hovered near all-time lows against the euro and Swiss franc amid higher Japanese interest rates pressuring government debt.

Japan's Nikkei surged 1.9%, extending Friday's gains as a weaker yen boosts export earnings. The Bank of Japan raised rates to a 30-year high of 0.75%, signaling more hikes, sending 10-year JGB yields to 2.10%, their highest since 1999. The yen touched 184.90 versus the euro and 198.08 versus the Swiss franc, with authorities warning of possible intervention if declines continue.

MSCI's Asia-Pacific index (excluding Japan) added 0.8%, while South Korea jumped 1.7% on AI optimism. Chinese blue chips rose 0.8%, and Singapore's main index hit a record high, climbing 1%. European futures were relatively flat, with EUROSTOXX 50 and FTSE down 0.1%.

Investor inflows remain strong, with global equity funds seeing record weekly inflows of $98 billion last week. Bond inflows slowed for the fourth consecutive week, and U.S. 10-year yields edged up to 4.169%.

Commodities also gained: silver hit a new record of $69.44 per ounce, gold rose 1.3% to $4,394, while oil prices firmed after U.S. interception of Venezuelan tankers, with Brent at $60.96 and U.S. crude at $56.99 per barrel.

Market sentiment remains bullish, though analysts caution that extreme optimism may precede pullbacks, as suggested by recent Fund Manager Surveys.

Motilal Oswal backs Sensa Core with $72 million

MUMBAI

Motilal Oswal Alternates has invested USD 72 million (around Rs 645 crore) in Hyderabad-based medical devices company Sensa Core Medical Instrumentation for a significant minority stake. The funding aims to boost product development and support global expansion, the company said on Monday.

Founded in 2006, Sensa Core designs, develops, manufactures, and distributes specialised in-vitro diagnostic devices.

Its electrolyte analysers are used in over 40,000 hospitals and labs across India and exported to more than 78 countries. The company also produces glucometers, haemoglobin meters, and has recently entered the arterial blood gas analyser segment.

TIERONE OFFICE DEMAND

Majority of GCC bases operate from green centres

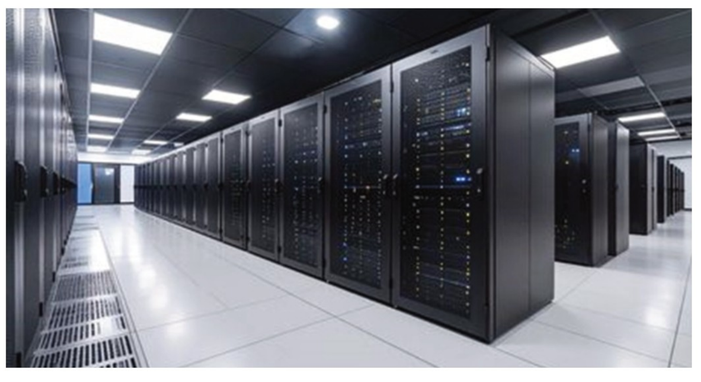
NEW DELHI

About 62 per cent of global capability centre (GCC) bases in India's flex spaces operate from green-certified buildings, while 85 per cent function from premium grade-A centres, according to a new report by Vestian. Among the top seven cities, 42 per cent of flex centres are green-certified and 69 per cent are located in grade-A buildings.

India currently hosts over 1,750 GCC companies with nearly 3,800 bases, creating demand for more than 40 per cent of total office space in the past two years. Of the 1,400 flex centres across major tier-1 cities, over 475 host GCC operations.

"Flex operators remain key partners, offering speed, flexibility, and enterprise-grade infrastructure that global companies need to scale efficiently," said Shrinivas Rao, CEO of Vestian.

Peripheral Business Districts (PBDs) are increasingly preferred for expansion due to strong connectivity, competitive costs, scalability, and larger campuses. Currently,



77 per cent of flex space occupied by GCCs is in peripheral areas, compared with 61 per cent of overall flex stock.

Driven by GCC demand, India's flex ecosystem now spans 82.3 million square feet across nearly 1,400 centres in the top seven cities. The market is concentrated, with the top 10 operators controlling 67 per cent of total space. Bengaluru leads with 33.2 per cent share, followed by Delhi-NCR at 20.4 per cent and Pune at 14.7 per cent.

Vestian projects India's flex stock to exceed 100 million square feet in tier-1 cities by 2026, as operators expand and upgrade portfolios to meet the growing requirements of GCCs. This reflects a steady shift toward sustainable, high-quality infrastructure for global enterprises in India.

Safeguarding the Future: The Hidden Struggles of Intellectually Disabled Children in India

ABU SUFIYAN

India's promise to its children with intellectual disabilities is clear in laws and policies, yet their everyday reality still swings between care and cruelty, protection and neglect. The recent assault on a 16-year-old differently abled boy at a Bagalkot residential school has torn away any illusion that these children are safe simply because they are inside institutions meant to "help" them.

Horror in Bagalkot: Video shows abuse of disabled boy in Navanagar

At a residential special school in Navanagar, Bagalkot, a video surfaced showing a 16-year-old boy with disabilities being beaten with a belt and plastic pipe, his legs pinned down as he cried in pain while staff continued the assault. Chilli powder was allegedly thrown into his eyes as other adults watched, one of them recording and laughing instead of intervening, before the footage was shared and the boy's parents finally learned what their son had endured.youtube

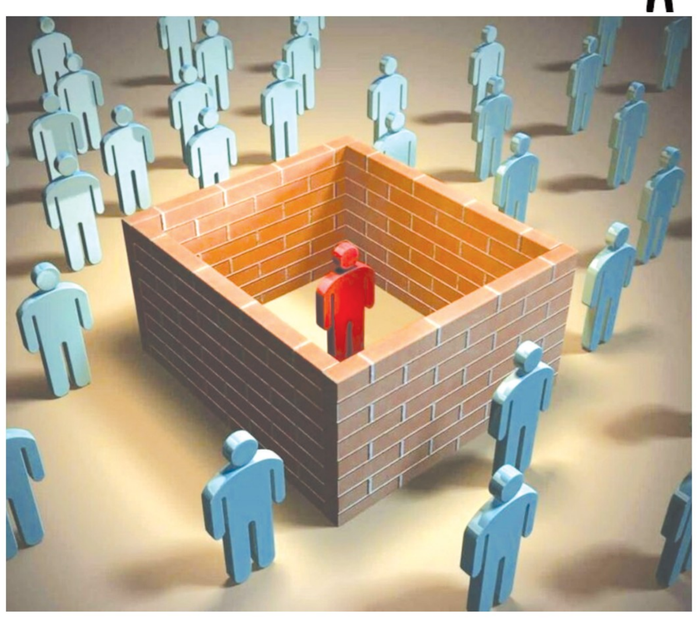
Police have arrested the school's operators and staff, and an FIR has been registered, but the case has shaken parents of disabled children across Karnataka who trusted such institutions to be safe spaces. For child rights activists, the Bagalkot incident is not an exception but a symptom of deeper structural failures in monitoring, training, and accountability in facilities that work with intellectually disabled children.

The invisible classroom: Many children with disabilities denied proper classroom access

Children with intellectual disabilities already live on the margins of India's education system, often denied even basic classroom access or pushed into poorly supervised hostels and "special schools". National data show that disability is closely linked with lower educational attainment, and many children with cognitive or communication difficulties remain out of school or sit in classrooms where their needs are not understood.

In mainstream schools, inclusive education often stops at admission; children are enrolled on paper but left without resource teachers, individualized learning plans, or accessible teaching materials. Many special schools, especially in smaller towns and districts, run with limited trained staff and weak oversight, turning care work into custodial management rather than meaningful education or life-skills training.

Child rights activist Nagasimha G Rao points out that for these children, "developing life skills itself constitutes a vital form of education," yet they frequently "fail to recognise or comprehend the violence and abuse inflicted upon them, and rarely confide in anyone about it." The result, he notes, is that many become "victims of parental neglect or indifference" and are deprived of their fundamental rights.



Healthcare: the missing link

Accessing healthcare and therapy remains another critical barrier. While India has expanded disability certification and welfare schemes, obtaining an accurate diagnosis, regular therapy, and mental-health support still depends heavily on geography and income. Families in districts and rural areas often travel long distances for assessments, only to face long waiting times, limited specialists, or services that are not adapted for children with intellectual disabilities. Mental health, in particular, is neglected: children with developmental delays or behavioural issues are frequently labelled "stubborn" or "naughty" rather than being screened for emotional distress or co-occurring conditions. For many parents, the costs of regular occupational therapy, speech therapy, counselling, or psychiatric care are prohibitive, pushing them to rely on residential institutions or hostels that promise holistic care but may lack trained staff and proper oversight, as the Bagalkot incident tragically illustrates.

Social stigma and emotional isolation

Beyond laws and policies, children with intellectual disabilities face a quieter, everyday violence—stigma. Families often hide them from public view due to shame or fear of ridicule, and communities see them more as objects of pity than as rights-bearing individuals. This stigma narrows their world: invitations to birthday parties or school outings shrink, classmates avoid sitting with them, and teachers may assume they can't learn, reinforcing stereotypes that they are "burdens" rather than children with potential.

The psychological impact is profound. International studies have repeatedly linked exclusion and bullying with higher risks of anxiety, depression, and self-harm among children and adolescents. Children with disabilities are often overprotected at home in some respects yet under-protected in others—their mobility may be restricted, but their emotional needs and autonomy are overlooked, leaving them confused, lonely and dependent on people who may mistreat them.

Families on the frontline

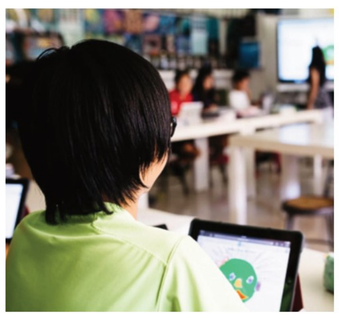
Behind every intellectually disabled child is a family negotiating daily battles—with systems, finances, and social attitudes. Parents, especially mothers, often give up paid work to become full-time caregivers, leading to economic strain and emotional burnout. Accessing certificates, schemes, reservations, or assistive devices means navigating multiple offices and paperwork, which can be overwhelming for families already stretched thin.

Rao stresses that parental neglect is not always deliberate cruelty; sometimes it is the exhaustion of caregivers who receive little structured support. When parents are not oriented to their child's rights, or when they are themselves stigmatized or misinformed, children may be left in the care of institutions without regular visits, questions, or oversight. Community-based support groups, respite care, and counselling for parents remain limited and uneven across Karnataka and the rest of India.

Technology and inclusive learning

Digital tools carry the potential to transform learning for children with intellectual disabilities—if designed thoughtfully and made accessible. Educational apps with simplified interfaces, visual supports, local-language audio prompts, and step-by-step instructions can reinforce life skills and basic academic concepts at a pace the child can manage. For non-verbal children or those with limited speech, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices and apps can help them express pain, discomfort, or preferences, reducing their isolation and improving their ability to report abuse or neglect.

During and after the pandemic, online learning highlighted both possibilities and limitations: while some urban schools experimented with special online sessions and interactive tools, many disabled children in low-income families lacked devices, connectivity, or adult support to benefit from them. Bridging this digital divide requires targeted government investment in accessible devices, training for teachers and parents, and partnerships with NGOs and tech innovators to scale solutions beyond big cities.



Abuse risk: highest where trust is deepest

Children with intellectual disabilities are most vulnerable where trust is deepest—at home, in schools, and in hostels or residential care. Global evidence shows that they face significantly higher risks of physical, emotional and sexual abuse, often from caregivers or family members. Their dependence for daily living tasks, challenges in communication, and difficulty in recognising inappropriate behaviour make them easy targets for abusers who assume they will not be believed or will not speak up at all.

National crime data show rising reporting of crimes against children, but cases involving disabled victims are likely still undercounted because classification and documentation of disability status are inconsistent. In institutions, power hierarchies and the fear of being expelled or punished discourage staff or peers from reporting wrongdoing, which is why Rao argues that "children with intellectual disabilities are particularly vulnerable, facing higher risks of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, often from caregivers or family members," and that many cases go unreported due to communication barriers and dependency on abusers.

Laws on paper, gaps on ground: laws aim to protect children with disabilities

India is not short of progressive legal frameworks. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 recognises intellectual disability and promises equality, non-discrimination, and reasonable accommodation in education, health and community life. Article 23 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child further obliges States to ensure special care, dignity, and full social inclusion for children with disabilities.

But the implementation gap is glaring. Research cited by global disability and child-rights agencies shows that violence against children with disabilities occurs at rates at least 1.7 times higher than among their peers without disabilities, with many incidents never reported. In India, law enforcement capacity, child protection systems, and disability services rarely intersect effectively, leaving complaints to be handled case by case rather than through a systemic child protection lens.

Rao underlines this disconnect: despite strong laws, "the absence of effective monitoring and implementation has turned their protection into a persistent challenge," especially because children with intellectual disabilities struggle to report abuse or even recognise it when it happens around them.

K'taka's policies versus reality

Karnataka was among the early states to mandate explicit child protection frameworks within schools. As early as 2016, the state government issued a directive that every educational institution must adopt and implement a Child Protection Policy. The Karnataka State Child Protection Policy requires schools to form child protection committees, display grievance mechanisms, ban corporal punishment and ensure safe environments, with monitoring by authorities.

Rao notes that institutions that fail to comply should face serious consequences, including revocation of license and action under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 for teachers or staff who are cruel to children. Yet the Bagalkot case and earlier allegations from a speech and hearing school in Kollegala, Chamarajanagar, where a teacher is accused of sexually abusing children with communication disorders over years, show monitoring has been patchy at best.

In the Chamarajanagar case, survivors and advocates allege that the teacher exploited children who could not speak, with complaints emerging only years later, after an alumnus disclosed her experience at a school event and a formal case was finally registered under the POCSO Act.

'Parameshi Prema Prasanga' to be staged in city on Dec 24

BENGALURU

The theater troupe Rangavalli Mysore will be staging the comedy play 'Parameshi Prema Prasanga' at the Ranga Shankara theater in JP Nagar, Bengaluru, on Wednesday, December 24, at 7:30 PM. Written by the renowned theater director Srinivas Prabhu, this play is directed by Raviprasad.

About the Play

Parameshi, who's striving tooth and nail to woo Rashmi... Krishnoji, whose celibacy is being fiercely challenged by the eyes of Shantaladevi... Vyakularaya, who's adamant about becoming a poet, come hell or high water... Ambabayi, who roasts and devours her husband (metaphorically, we hope!)... Bhoothanatha, who can't even recall his own name... Desai, the gluttonous foodie... Pundriklu ,the former dacoit turned good guy... And Chenni, who swipes a necklace in the blink of an eye...

When all these characters assemble in one place, the resulting fountain of uncontrollable laughter is none other than 'Parameshi Prema Prasanga' (Parameshi's Love Affair)!

Written by: Srinivas Prabhu Directed by: Raviprasad

Inspired by the works of English writer P.G. Wodehouse, this romantic comedy is penned by Srinivasa Prabhu. The renowned designer H.K. Dwarakanath has crafted the stage design, while Madhu Ninasam has designed the lighting, and Manju Mangala will operate music, Make-Up by - Saritha C.V. Hariprasad has designed the costumes. The play is directed by Ravi Prasad. An entry fee of ₹200 has been fixed for this play.

The Black Caps dominated at Bay Oval, winning 2-0 in the series and boosting their World Test Championship standing

NZ secure second place after Test victory

NEW DELHI

New Zealand moved up to second place in the ICC World Test Championship standings after a crushing 323-run victory over the West Indies in the third and final Test at Mount Maunganui. The win helped New Zealand overtake South Africa, with only Australia remaining ahead in the points table.

The Black Caps finished the match midway through the final session at Bay Oval, showing clear dominance throughout the series. The victory sealed a 2-0 series win and strengthened New Zealand's position early in the World Test Championship cycle.

Left-arm seamer Jacob Duffy played a key role in the triumph. He took the final wicket of the match and ended the West Indies' second innings with impressive figures of 5 for 42. Chasing a challenging target of 462 runs, the visitors were bowled out for just 138.

Duffy's performance across the series was outstanding. He claimed 23 wickets and was named Player of the Series. During the match, he also broke a long-standing national record, surpassing Richard Hadlee's mark for the most wickets by a New Zealander in a calendar year.

New Zealand's bowlers were well supported by strong batting performances. Openers Devon Conway and captain Tom Latham made history by becoming the first opening pair in Test cricket to score two centuries each in the same match.

Conway stood out with scores of 227 and 100, becoming the first New Zealander to achieve a double century and a century in one Test. He was named Player of the Match.

New Zealand will next face England in a three-match Test series next year, while the West Indies remain ninth and will play Sri Lanka and Pakistan at home.

Dhami launches Sansad Khel Mahotsav in Almora

ALMORA

The Chief Minister announced plans to make Uttarakhand a sports hub, including 23 academies in eight cities training 920 top athletes and numerous other players

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday inaugurated the Sansad Khel Mahotsav at the Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Stadium in Almora, marking another step towards promoting sports and fitness across the state.

The sports festival has been launched to support the vision of Fit India and Fit Uttarakhand, with a focus on encouraging young people to take up sports and physical activity. Union Minister of State Ajay Tamta was also present at the event, showing support for the initiative.

Speaking after the inauguration, Chief Minister Dhami said that a strong sports culture is taking shape in Uttarakhand under his government. He highlighted that sports infrastructure is being developed on a large scale and that new policies are helping identify and support talented athletes from across the state.

The Chief Minister said the government aims to turn Uttarakhand into a sports hub. As part of this plan, a state-level sports league is being prepared. He announced that 23 sports academies will be set up in eight major cities, where around 920 top athletes and many other players will receive high-quality training.

Dhami also shared plans to establish Uttarakhand's first sports university in Haldwani and the state's first women's sports college in Lohaghat. These steps, he said, will create better opportunities for young athletes, especially women.

The Sansad Khel Mahotsav is part of a wider national effort to promote fitness, community participation and sportsmanship. Similar events have been organised in other parts of the country, including Jorhat, where large numbers of people took part in sporting activities like a half-marathon.

The initiative aims to discover local talent, strengthen grassroots sports and build a healthier society through active participation.

Gill to lead strong Punjab Squad for Vijay Hazare

NEW DELHI

Punjab have announced an 18-member squad for the upcoming Vijay Hazare Trophy, with star players Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma and Arshdeep Singh set to feature in the domestic one-day tournament. Punjab will begin their campaign against Maharashtra on December 24 and will play all seven of their league matches in Jaipur. The team reached the quarter-finals last season and will be aiming to go further this time with a strong mix of international players and young talent.

Gill's inclusion comes after a difficult phase in his international career. The Indian batter was recently dropped from the squads for the T20 World Cup and the New Zealand T20I series due to concerns over fitness and form. The Vijay Hazare Trophy will offer him a chance to regain rhythm and confidence.

Alongside Gill, Punjab have named Abhishek Sharma and left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh, who was the team's leading wicket-taker in the previous edition. Arshdeep is expected to play a key role again if available for the full tournament.

The squad also includes several aggressive batters and useful all-rounders such as Prabhsimran Singh, Anmolpreet Singh, Naman Dhir, Ramandeep Singh, Sanvir Singh and Harpreet Brar. The pace attack will be led by Gurnoor Brar and Krish Bhagat.

India eye better fielding in second T20I

NEW DELHI

The Indian women's cricket team will look to improve its fielding and strengthen its position when it faces Sri Lanka in the second Women's T20 International on Tuesday (today).

India began the series with a comfortable eight-wicket win, marking their first international outing after a historic World Cup triumph last month. The bowlers did a solid job by restricting Sri Lanka to 121 for six, and the batters chased the target with ease. However, several dropped catches raised concerns about the team's fielding standards.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur openly admitted that fielding needs attention. She said the team is working hard to fix the issue and stressed that wet conditions cannot be used as an excuse. The skipper believes the side will show a better approach in the next match.

The Indian players returned to action after a well-earned six-week break following their World Cup success. They trained together at a week-long camp in Bengaluru, and some lack of sharpness in the field was expected. Harmanpreet feels the team will soon regain rhythm and confidence.

India remain clear favourites against the Chamari Athapaththu-led Sri Lankan side. Jemimah Rodrigues continued her fine form, batting fluently and punishing loose bowling in the opening game. Young left-arm spinner Vaishnavi Sharma also impressed by conceding just 16 runs in her four overs, despite going wicketless.

Shafali Verma will look for more consistency, while senior players such as Harmanpreet, Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma hope for tougher challenges. The series is seen as important preparation before India's demanding tour of Australia after the Women's Premier League.

Sakib Hussain joins SRH for fresh IPL challenge

NEW DELHI

Right-arm pacer Sakib Hussain is set for a new chapter in his Indian Premier League career after being picked by Sunrisers Hyderabad for his base price of Rs 30 lakh at the IPL 2026 auction. Hussain, who tasted title success with Kolkata Knight Riders in 2024 without playing a match, was at Bihar's Vijay Hazare Trophy camp in Patna when the news came.

Hussain said the selection felt rewarding as he worked hard to improve on previous shortcomings and implement lessons from domestic cricket. He credited guidance from SRH bowling coach Varun Aaron and praised his time with KKR, where he learned strategies and mental skills from players like Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, and Rinku Singh.

Starc questions ICC role in DRS payment

ADELAIDE

Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc has raised serious questions about the International Cricket Council's handling of Decision Review System costs, amid growing controversy during the ongoing Ashes series.

Starc suggested that the ICC should pay for DRS technology in international cricket and ensure the same provider is used across all matches. He believes a centralised system would reduce confusion and bring more consistency to umpiring decisions.

The debate has intensified after several disputed decisions involving Real Time Snicko during the Ashes. Tensions peaked in the Adelaide Test, where England lost a crucial wicket after a review issue. The ICC later reinstated England's review when the Snicko technology provider admitted an operator error that affected a decision involving Australian wicketkeeper Alex Carey.

Another moment drew attention when Starc was caught on the stump microphone saying that Snicko "needs to be sacked," reflecting frustration shared by players and officials from both sides.

Cricket Australia and the England and Wales Cricket Board are reportedly planning to approach the ICC to review its current protocols. At present, host broadcasters are responsible for paying for DRS technology, a system that has drawn criticism due to varying standards across countries.

Speaking on the issue, Starc said the officials rely on the technology to make decisions, so the ICC should take responsibility for funding it. He added that using one provider worldwide could lead to fewer errors and less frustration for players, officials and fans.

Boochatham, Kanoh retire on winning note

BANGKOK

Thailand's women's cricket team marked an emotional milestone as Nattaya Boochatham and Rosenan Kanoh announced their retirements following a sixth straight gold medal at the Women's T20 event at the SEA Games Thailand 2025. Veteran all-rounder Nattaya Boochatham, 39, ended her international career after the final against Malaysia. A key figure in Thailand's rise, she represented the country at the 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup and played major roles in Asia Cup and Emerging Nations successes, finishing with over 100 T20I wickets. Rosenan Kanoh, 26, bowed out on a high, guiding Thailand to victory in the final with a calm, match-winning innings. Their departures close a defining chapter in Thailand women's cricket history.

Nepal announce training squad ahead of T20 World Cup

KATHMANDU

Nepal have named a 24-player group for a training camp as they begin preparations for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup, scheduled to be held in India and Sri Lanka early next year.

The selected players will attend an intensive camp that will help selectors decide the final 15-member squad for the global tournament, which begins on February 7. The larger group gives the team management a chance to assess form, fitness and combinations before trimming the squad.

Nepal have shown faith in the core group that impressed earlier this year. Sixteen players from the squad that defeated the West Indies 2-1 in a T20I series during September and October have been retained. Their strong performances played a major role in Nepal's growing confidence in the shortest format.

Along with the familiar faces, eight new players have been added to the group. Sher Malla, Binod Bhandari, Abinash Bohara and Bashir Ahmed earned selection after strong displays in the recently concluded Nepal Premier League. Their inclusion adds depth and competition within the squad.

Nepal qualified for the 2026 T20 World Cup after an unbeaten run at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Asia-Pacific Regional Final in Oman in October. This will be Nepal's second straight appearance at the tournament and their third overall, reflecting steady progress on the international stage.

Nepal have been placed in Group C, where they will face tough opponents including England, West Indies, Bangladesh and Italy. The tournament will feature 20 teams across eight venues over 29 days.

Each team will play group matches between February 7 and 20. The top two teams from each group will advance to the Super Eights stage starting February 21. The best four teams from that phase will move on to the semi-finals, with the final scheduled for March 8.

The training camp is seen as a crucial step as Nepal aim to compete strongly against top cricketing nations.

Schroder drilled a clutch overtime three, leading bench spark with 24 points, 10 rebounds, seven assists to win

Schroeder late three lifts Kings past rockets

SACRAMENTO

Dennis Schroder delivered a dramatic finish as the Sacramento Kings edged the Houston Rockets 125-124 in overtime, snapping a five-game losing streak in thrilling fashion.

Schroder hit a clutch three-pointer with just 2.2 seconds left in overtime, sealing the win after the Kings staged a strong late comeback. Coming off the bench, he played a vital role and finished with 24 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists.

DeMar DeRozan led Sacramento with 27 points and nine assists, while Russell Westbrook added energy and toughness with 21 points and 13 rebounds. Keegan Murray chipped in with 26 points, and Maxime Raynaud recorded a solid double-double with 12 points and 14 rebounds.

Sacramento forced overtime after trailing late in regulation. With the Rockets leading 112-107, DeRozan scored on a dunk and Westbrook followed with a corner three-pointer to tie the game and push it beyond regulation. The overtime period saw several lead changes and rising tension. Houston briefly went ahead when Jabari Smith Jr. made two free throws for a 124-122 lead. Moments later, DeRozan drove into the lane and calmly passed to an open Schroder in the left corner, who knocked down the winning shot.

For Houston, Alperen Sengun scored 28 points, Kevin Durant added 24 points and 10 rebounds, and Smith finished with 18 points. Durant had a final chance to respond but missed a jumper at the buzzer.

The Rockets started slowly but rallied strongly in the second quarter to take control before the Kings' late surge turned the game around and delighted the home crowd.

Bayern end year strong with Heidenheim Rout

BERLIN

Bayern Munich ended the year firmly in control of the Bundesliga after a dominant 4-0 away win over bottom side Heidenheim, moving nine points clear at the top before the winter break.

Despite missing several senior players, coach Vincent Kompany's team controlled the match from the opening whistle. Bayern kept most of the possession, passed with confidence and forced Heidenheim to defend deep for long periods.

The visitors took the lead in the 15th minute when Michael Olise's corner was headed back across goal by Jonathan Tah, allowing Josip Stanisic to score from close range.

Bayern doubled their advantage in the 32nd minute. Goalkeeper Diant Ramaj failed to deal with a long ball, Hiroki Ito kept the move alive and Olise finished calmly to make it 2-0.

Heidenheim showed more fight after halftime and came close to scoring. Stefan Schimmer hit the crossbar with a header, while Arijon Ibrahimovic fired over the bar soon after. Bayern also created chances, with Harry Kane striking the post.

Heidenheim fought back after halftime, nearly scoring; Schimmer hit the crossbar, Ibrahimovic missed, while Bayern also threatened, with Kane striking the post in a tense contest

The match remained under Bayern's control as the visitors introduced young debutants and managed the tempo well. Luis Diaz added a third goal in the 86th minute with a header from Stanisic's cross.

Kane completed the scoring in stoppage time with his 19th league goal, marking his 100th Bundesliga goal contribution.

Bayern now sit on 41 points from 15 matches. Heidenheim remain second from bottom on 11 points. Kane later said Bayern were strong early, slightly careless after the break, but deserved winners. The result underlined their title ambition and sent a clear warning to rivals before football pauses for winter weeks.

Fox powers spurs past Wizards in Washington

WASHINGTON

De'Aaron Fox powered the San Antonio Spurs to a 124-113 win over the Washington Wizards, scoring a game-high 27 points and hitting five three-pointers. The victory was San Antonio's sixth in seven games and its second over Washington in four days. Luke Kornet dominated inside with 20 points and 12 rebounds, while Stephon Castle contributed 18 points and 11 assists. Victor Wembanyama, easing back from a calf strain, finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds in under 22 minutes off the bench. The Spurs broke the game open in the second quarter, outscoring Washington 43-21 to build a 20-point halftime lead. Washington rested Alex Sarr and Khris Middleton, and although Bub Carrington scored 21 points, the Wizards never cut the deficit below nine. The loss was Washington's fourth straight at home, as San Antonio continued gaining momentum late in season.

Buyuktuncel triple-double powers Nebraska to big win

LINCOLN

Berke Buyuktuncel recorded an impressive triple-double as No. 15 Nebraska pulled away in the second half to defeat North Dakota 78-55.

Buyuktuncel finished with 12 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists, guiding the Huskers after a slow shooting start in the opening half. The victory helped Nebraska improve to 12-0, marking the best start in the program's history.

Nebraska struggled early and trailed for much of the first half, but the team responded strongly after the break. The Huskers opened the second half with a decisive 19-6 run, quickly changing the momentum of the game. Buyuktuncel gave Nebraska its first lead just over a minute into the half with a free throw.

Braden Frager provided a spark off the bench, leading Nebraska with 17 points. Sam Hoiberg added 15 points, while Jamarques Lawrence contributed 13, including a key three-pointer that helped stretch the lead. Nebraska's balanced scoring proved too much for North Dakota to handle. North Dakota briefly regained the lead midway through the second half on a three-pointer by Garrett Anderson. However, Nebraska responded immediately. Buyuktuncel, Lawrence and Hoiberg combined for 11 points during a 13-0 run that pushed the Huskers firmly ahead.

As the game progressed, Nebraska tightened its defense and controlled the boards, steadily increasing the gap. The Huskers built their largest lead at 25 points and never allowed North Dakota to mount a serious comeback. The visitors were unable to get closer than 10 points in the final nine minutes. Eli King led North Dakota with 13 points, while Marley Curtis added 10. Despite their effort, North Dakota struggled to keep pace once Nebraska found its rhythm. The win highlighted Nebraska's depth, composure and growing confidence. With strong teamwork and consistent defense, the Huskers continue to look like a serious force as the season moves forward.

McDavid shines as Oilers edge Golden Knights

EDMONTON

Connor McDavid led from the front with a goal and two assists as the Edmonton Oilers held on for a 4-3 win over the Vegas Golden Knights.

McDavid opened the scoring midway through the first period and later set up two power-play goals for Ryan Nugent-Hopkins. Zach Hyman also scored and added an assist, while Leon Draisaitl chipped in with two assists as Edmonton built a commanding early lead.

The Oilers came out with strong intent after a loss in Minnesota the previous night. They raced to a 4-0 advantage in the second period, putting heavy pressure on Vegas goaltender Carter Hart. Edmonton looked in full control at that stage, moving the puck quickly and taking advantage of special teams chances.

Goaltender Connor Ingram made his Edmonton debut and first NHL appearance of the season. He stopped 26 shots and remained calm despite late pressure from Vegas. Ingram last played in the league with Utah before entering the NHL Players Assistance Program earlier this year.

Vegas mounted a comeback attempt after Tomas Hertl scored on a power play in the second period. Hertl later assisted on goals by Mitch Marner and Pavel Dorofeyev in the third, with Marner also scoring with the man advantage. Noah Hanifin registered three assists for the Golden Knights. Despite the push, Edmonton held firm in the final minutes to secure the victory. The win improved the Oilers' record to 18-13-6. They have now won three of their last four games and continue to show a strong trend when scoring first.

Vegas, meanwhile, suffered a third straight loss and will look to regroup quickly as the season moves forward.

Maye sparks Patriots comeback to seal playoff spot

BALTIMORE

The New England Patriots are back in the NFL playoffs after a thrilling 28-24 comeback win over the Baltimore Ravens, led by quarterback Drake Maye's calm and confident performance.

Trailing by 11 points in the fourth quarter, the Patriots showed strong belief and sharp execution when it mattered most. Maye guided two crucial touchdown drives, turning the game around and crushing Baltimore's playoff hopes in front of their home crowd.

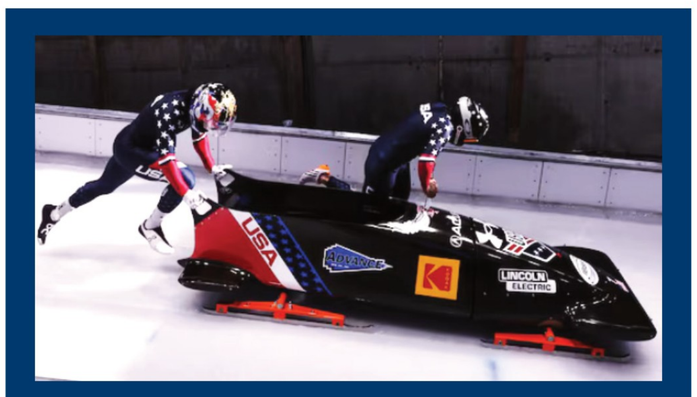
With New England down 24-13, Maye fired a 37-yard touchdown pass to Kyle Williams to bring life back into the contest. He then showed great awareness by completing a two-point conversion pass to Rhamondre Stevenson, cutting the gap to just three points with over nine minutes remaining. The comeback reflected the growing maturity of Maye, who finished with a career-high 380 passing yards and two touchdowns. His steady leadership has helped New England return to the postseason in just his second year as starting quarterback.

Head coach Mike Vrabel praised his players after the game, saying the win belonged to the team and that the Patriots would now focus on chasing the division title.

This playoff return comes seven years after Tom Brady and Bill Belichick won their final Super Bowl together, and four years after the team last reached the postseason. While the names have changed, the winning feeling has returned to Foxborough.

Baltimore, meanwhile, suffered a major setback. The Ravens were unable to protect their late lead and now face serious pressure in the playoff race.

For New England, the victory confirmed what fans have begun to believe. With Maye in charge and confidence growing, the Patriots once again look ready for January football and bigger challenges ahead.



Kaillie Humphries wins World Cup after maternity break

SIGULDA

Kaillie Humphries marked a major milestone in her career by claiming her first Bobsleigh World Cup victory since 2023, signalling a strong return as she prepares for the 2026 Winter Olympics.

The American bobsledder, now 40, teamed up with Emily Renna to win the two-woman World Cup event in Sigulda, Latvia, ending a long wait to return to the top step of the podium. The victory was especially meaningful as it came after Humphries took a season-long break from the sport during her pregnancy.

Humphries has enjoyed a remarkable career across two nations. She won Olympic gold medals for Canada in the two-woman bobsleigh at the 2010 Vancouver Games and the 2014 Sochi Olympics, along with a bronze medal at the 2018 Pyeongchang Games. After switching allegiance to the United States, she added a monobob gold medal at the 2022 Beijing Olympics.

Her last World Cup win before Sunday's race also came in Sigulda in February 2023. Since then, she stepped away from competition to focus on motherhood before returning to the ice this season with renewed motivation.

Speaking after the race, Humphries described the win as deeply emotional. She said returning to victory after three years felt special and called it her first win as a mother. She also highlighted the moment as a career first for teammate Emily Renna, making the result even more memorable.

Humphries said the victory felt like a perfect early Christmas gift for both athletes and the wider team. The result also boosts her confidence ahead of the 2026 Milano-Cortina Winter Olympics.

The bobsleigh events at the upcoming Games will be held in Cortina d'Ampezzo from February 12 to 22. With this win, Humphries has sent a clear message that she remains a serious contender on the world stage.

Morgan Rogers double lifts Aston Villa past United

BIRMINGHAM

Morgan Rogers scored two brilliant goals as Aston Villa beat Manchester United 2-1 at Villa Park, extending their winning run and strengthening their push near the top of the Premier League table.

The victory was Villa's seventh straight league win and their tenth in a row across all competitions. The result lifted the home side to third place with 36 points, keeping them firmly in the title race behind leaders Arsenal and Manchester City.

Villa were not at their best for much of the first half, but the match changed just before the break. In the 45th minute, John McGinn found Rogers with a precise pass. The 23-year-old showed great control, cut inside the box and curled a stunning shot into the top corner, giving Villa the lead.

Manchester United responded quickly. After Matty Cash lost possession near his own penalty area, Matheus Cunha struck the loose ball past Emiliano Martinez to level the score. However, United suffered a big setback when captain Bruno Fernandes was forced off at halftime due to injury.

Fernandes was replaced by defender Lisandro Martinez, who pushed forward and tried to help United regain control. Despite a brief spell of pressure, Villa soon struck again. In the 57th minute, Rogers repeated his magic, curling another fine effort beyond the goalkeeper to restore Villa's lead.

United tried to find an equaliser late on. Shea Lacey tested Martinez, while Mason Mount sent a free kick over the bar. Villa stayed calm and defended well to secure the win.

Rogers, who has now scored seven league goals this season, praised the supporters after the match and even gave his shirt to a fan. Villa Park celebrated loudly as another famous win was sealed.

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